FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

25 FEBRUARY 1987

Lebanon

Syrian-Hizballah Clash — In the wake of a clash between Syrian troops and Hizballah gunmen, Beirut radio broadcast another warning by Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an that gunmen must withdraw from West Beirut as "every gunman is an enemy of the city." A Syrian security source stated that 15 Hizballah members were killed in the clash in the Al-bastah area, AFP noted, but Hizballah indicated that its casualties were higher and accused the Syrians of opening fire in cold blood. Hizballah nevertheless urged its men not to react and to obey orders. The clash occurred after the Syrians took over the Hizballah headquarters in Al-bastah, Beirut radio disclosed, noting that the building was set on fire after being evacuated by Hizballah.

In other security developments, Beirut radio announced that Lebanese Army units will deploy on the Muslim-Christian combat lines and on the southern coastal road 25 February. Clashes continued between Amal and Palestinian gunmen in the Shatila area, according to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon.

East Beirut Criticism — Lebanese Forces commander Samir Ja'ja' reaffirmed his side's opposition to Syria in remarks reported by Voice of Lebanon radio, stating that he is ready to ally with Druze, Sunnis, and "some" Shi'ites to confront the Syrian presence in Beirut.

Israeli Comment — Israel objects to any broader or deeper Syrian military involvement in Lebanon and reserves the right to exercise "full freedom of operation" if its direct defense interests are harmed, Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin stated in remarks broadcast by IDF radio. In a Knesset committee briefing, Rabin said the Syrian force in and around Beirut comprises up to 10,000 soldiers, though he noted that there has been no change in the Syrian SAM deployment in Lebanon.

Syrian Relations With Iran, Libya

Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Revolution Guards Corps Minister Mohsen Rafiqdust left Syria after meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad, IRNA reported, noting Velayati's statement that the talks were "positive and fruitful." He said that Lebanon and the Iran-Iraq war were among topics discussed. Meanwhile, Damascus radio reported the departure from Syria of Libyan Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud, who has been staying in Damascus for several months.

Israel

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres left for Cairo 25 February, telling journalists before his departure that his goal is to continue the peace process, not to bring about a government crisis, Jerusalem radio reported. However, Peres warned earlier in an IDF radio interview that there will be no reason for the current cabinet to continue "if an attempt is made to block the peace process, and if the economic recovery is stopped." A Likud communique cited by IDF radio accused Peres of harming Israel through his "irresponsible" declarations. In a more conciliatory vein, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir stressed that the existence of the national unity government is vital to the economy, Jerusalem radio noted.

Iran-Iraq War

An Iraqi chemical attack in the Karbala'-5 sector was neutralized thanks to the "complete chemical defense preparedness" of Iranian forces, Tehran radio reported. The Iranians had captured a "key position" west of Fish Lake earlier on 24 February, killing or wounding over 900 Iraqis, according to IRNA.

For Iraq's part, a communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio stated that Iranian attempts to attack the Iraqi III Corps were thwarted by artillery fire and Iraqi air strikes. In the Gulf, Iraqi naval units dealt a "destructive" blow to Iran's Nowruz oil field 23 February, the communique added.

DRA

Diplomacy — Foreign Minister Abdol Wakil announced at a Geneva press conference that the DRA will make "fresh proposals" regarding a timetable for the Soviet troop withdrawal, AFP reported. On the subject of national reconciliation, Wakil declared that the establishment of a coalition government could occur "at any time" and does not depend on the outcome of the indirect talks with Pakistan.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry is finalizing its proposal for quadripartite talks among the Afghan mujahidin, the USSR, Pakistan and Iran, according to a Ministry spokesman cited by IRNA. The official stressed Iran's concern that the indirect talks in Geneva have ignored the key issues of an unconditional Soviet withdrawal and participation of the mujahidin.

Pakistani Protest — The Pakistani Foreign Ministry lodged a "strong protest" over the 20 February intrusion of eight Afghan warplanes which bombed the Arandu area of Chitral District, injuring three people, Karachi radio reported.

Libyan Involvement in Chad

Chadian troops downed a Libyan MIG-25 warplane near Zouar in the Tibesti region 24 February, Chadian Embassy sources in Paris told AFP, adding that the Libyans resumed bombing Chadian positions in Fada 23 February. A communique carried by Ndjamena radio announced that 28 Libyans were killed in clashes around Zouar the same day.

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DFLP's 'Abd Rabbuh on PLO Unity Efforts

JN241245 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 22 Feb 87 p 17

[Interview with Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, DFLP deputy secretary general, by Hatim Ghanim in Algiers — date not given]

[Text] [Ghanim] Brother Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, DFLP deputy secretary general, during this interview we would like to know the Democratic Front's opinion on the process of Palestinian national unity. Certainly, there are external obstacles, and some people say that there are also internal obstacles, hampering the political unity process among Palestinian groups. What is Brother Yasir's opinion on the subject?

['Abd Rabbuh] Certainly there are two sides. The first side are Palestinian differences on the political line of the Palestinian revolution. In other words, what line should the Palestinian revolution take? The second side is the role played by Arab regional blocs in deepening the divisions within the Palestinian arena to serve the personal objectives of these blocs. We have emphasized since the beginning of the crisis within the PLO that the only way to overcome this crisis is to adhere to the national line and program of the PLO, and that any deviation from this line and program, whether such deviation is capitulationist or extremist and adventurist, will lead to deepening divisions within the Palestinian arena, causing an internal crisis, and creating a suitable atmosphere for Arab regional blocs to increase their interference in the Palestinian arena. Furthermore, all this leads to further disintegration. For this reason, we have always emphasized that neither our own program, nor anyone else's program is a suitable basis for unity. There is only the common national program of the PLO. A return to this program calls for canceling everything that constituted a deviation from it, beginning with the Amman Agreement and ending with the divisionist blocs. It was for this reason that we began a dialogue with the Fatah Movement leadership several months ago and came to a conclusion on the need to abide by the national prorgam and the Prague Agreement. We did not consider the Prague Agreement as the last attempt. We proposed it as a plan for beginning a national dialogue among all the Palestinian groups as a prelude to convening the forthcoming unifying session of the PNC.

Actually, the Prague Agreement was opposed by two trends. We believe these two trends are the very ones responsible for the crisis within the Palestinian arena.

The first trend is that which is still deluded by U.S. solutions.

The second is the extremist trend that wants to impose its own program on the entire Palestinian national movement as a substitute to the movement's common national program. In view of all this and despite the objections to, and the attacks on, the Prague Agreement by these two trends, we have always believed that the Palestinian national majority inside and outside the occupied territory has considered this step [Prague Agreement] a glimmer of hope for restoring PLO unity.

On the other hand, we welcomed the meetings between the PFLP and the Fatah leadership on the basis that they contributed to the unifying process we are seeking. In all honesty, however, we say that past experiences within the Palestinian arena have taught us that there is a big difference between words and deeds. The Prague Agreement was an expression of the need to return to abidance by the national program. But this abidance must be through deeds, not words. For this reason and in all honesty, we have asked our brothers in the Fatah leadership to take several stands to prove that they are abiding by the Prague Agreement in practice. Our request to the Fatah Movement leadership regarding this matter still stands.

At the same time, despite the failure to reach political agreement during the past years due to divisions, we made it a point to preserve, even to a minimum degree, national unity in the framework of joint action. For this reason we made it a point to maintain existing nationalist and unionist relations in the occupied territories in various arenas of Palestinian struggle so as to have even a preliminary guarantee for the continuation of the hard march to restore political unity to the Palestinian national leadership. We can say that despite divisions we succeeded through bitter struggle to preserve a minimum degree of unity among the various Palestinian national trends inside and outside the occupied territories. We rejected and resisted the perpetuation and consecration of divisions and their transfer to the occupied territories, to Palestinian popular organizations, or to other arenas of struggle, particularly in Lebanon.

In this context, we firmly and resolutely confronted all efforts to trigger inter-Palestinian fighting and all efforts concocted outside the Palestinian arena on nonobjective bases. We stressed that the only objective deciding factor is the one between the national line and any violation of this national line. There is no other deciding factor inside or outside the Palestinian arena. In conclusion, we believe these efforts were fruitful in making some steps toward unity, such as the Prague Agreement, the joint meetings, the bilateral meetings among a number of factions, and the recent conference of the Federation of Palestinian Writers and Journalists, which constitute an end to a stage and a beginning of another stage — a new stage in which an end will be made to the division and disintegration that prevailed in the Palestinian arena in the past years.

I would like to add that the role of the Arab regional axes can be ended if the major Palestinian national sides become united and committed to the joint national line, which was expressed by the PNC resolutions that received comprehensive national Palestinian unanimity. The hostile forces would not have been able to concoct plots or massacres against our people, including the latest massacre in Lebanon, had Palestinians been united. What we are witnessing now in Lebanon is also one of the outcomes of the Palestinian divisions from which we have been suffering in the past years.

There were many rumors that Palestinian national unity does exist, but what is missing is unity of Palestinian factions. This is merely a play on words. True, Palestinian unity can be embodied in the unity of all the nationalist and main Palestinian factions within the ranks of our Palestinian people. Unless we attain this goal, no unity can come about. This delusive propaganda wants to justify and beautify the division by saying unity exists but unity of factions is missing. This is a secondary issue that cannot be long tolerated. These rumors serve the extreme divisionist trend in the Palestinian arena, which continuously calls for the continuation of division and views this division as the only way to Palestinian national salvation, to revolutionizing the PLO, and to making it take a more serious and progressive line. It is evident that neither the unilateral policy nor the division policy can constitute a road leading to national salvation.

The policy of making unilateral decisions implies that one side wants to dictate its policy and program to other Palestinian national sides instead of committing itself to a joint program that all sides will accept. The extremist divisionist policy is also another form of making unilateral decisions because this divisionist and extremist policy is designed to impose its special program on all the Palestinian national forces.

Hence, we are now witnessing a situation in the Paelstinian arena in which large sectors, including sectors that have until recently been supporting this or that trend or this or that leader in the crisis, have begun to realize that their continued pursuit of a unilateral or divisionist policy greatly harms the national issue in its entirety, including the interests of these parties and sectors. For this reason, many of those who have, until recently, been supporting this or that trend have begun to abandon their ideas in favor of the common national stand, because division represents a threat of destruction for all sides, regardless of their intellectual, ideological, political, or organizational trends.

In our opinon, this is an important indicator in view of the bitter experience we have gone through during the past years and also in view of another thing that I want to articulate frankly: namely, that the two sides, the one that has advocated unilateral policies and the one that has pursued divisionist trends, have exhausted the limits of their respective trends. Each side has tried its methodology and techniques and has walked its road to the end without achieving any results, with the exception of inflicting great harm on the Palestinian movement and weakening its influence and role on many levels.

Hence, we once again believe that the only way out of this situation is represented by the Palestinian national dialogue, which will pave the way for holding a PNC session. The Palestinian national dialogue is not an administrative process. It is not an administrative arrangement of the sides that will take part in this dialogue. The useful and effective Palestinian national dialogue that can lead to an end to the division and pave the way to holding a PNC session is the one that proceeeds from a commitment to policies and statements and also from an adherence to the PLO's national program and which cancels all that constitutes a violation of this program, beginning with the Amman Agreement and ending with the Palestine National Salvation Front. This is my opinion, and I believe that once we have taken a serious step toward Palestinian national unity, we will be able to bring about a rectification of the PLO's relationship with the various Arab regional axes. At that moment, we will be able, using the PLO's unified national stand, which must be based on its national program, to rectify the PLO's relationship with Syria and all Arab regimes in accordance with the constants agreed upon and accepted by the Palestinian masses and the pan-Arab principles known to all sides. Without this, it is impossible to rectify the PLO's relations with others, preserve the PLO's independence, and protect the independent Palestinian national decision-making. And the prelude to preserving the independent Palestinian national decision-making is represented by proceeding seriously toward unity, not as an administrative process as I have just said, but as a political and national process that requires courageous steps from all sides on the basis of principles that have been acceptable to, and recognized by, all sides before the rupture occurred. The guiding principle should be the Palestinian national program. We believe this is the only way out of the current situation. We also believe that insulting this or that regime or shouting about the policy of this or that regime will never constitute a way out of this crisis. The way out must take the form of taking a serious and practical step to put an end to interference of this or that regime in the affairs of the Palestinian national movement.

[Ghanim] The conference was certainly preceded by meetings that made it possible to hold the unifying conference of Palestinian writers and journalists. The conference has been termed a successful rehearsal for the PNC. Do you agree? Do you believe the PNC will convene soon? According to optimists it will convene in 2 or 3 months, or perhaps earlier or later?

['Abd Rabbuh] I agree to two things: first, to endorse the political resolutions adopted by the writers' union conference as a political basis for a Palestinian national consensus that constitutes a prelude to convening the PNC; second, to adopt the democratic factional representation that was adopted by the writers' union as a basis for convening the PNC and forming the PLO's leadership bodies. These two matters run in parallel: the political line, and the democratic factional relations. Because experience has shown that the writers' union conference succeeded because these two conditions were met, then let us strive on the basis of this experience to make these two conditions the basis for ensuring the success of the forthcoming PNC session. We do not have any special conditions, and we reject any special conditions put forward by any Palestinian side or faction. Our conditions are the same; that is, commitment to the joint national bases that everyone has accepted, and commitment to implement these bases. Without having democratic relations and a joint national program, there can be no lasting national Palestinian unity. Therefore, once again we say that because the writers' union has approved the call for canceling the Amman Agreement because it is a departure from the Palestinian national program, why then does this decision not constitute a basis for a Palestinian national gathering? Also, because the writers' union has approved the adoption of PNC resolutions that enjoyed a Palestinian national consensus in the past, why then does this decision not constitute another political basis? And because the writers' union has approved the adoption of democratic factional representation, why not adopt this decision in the Palestinian national agreement?

Our only condition is that we abide in word and deed by what we agreed upon at previous PNC sessions, agreements that constitute a Palestinian national consensus.

[Ghanim] I have heard from you now that the DFLP has no conditions. However, I understood from you that there is a condition: The cancellation of the Amman Agreement to continue the march of Palestinian national unity.

['Abd Rabbuh] That is not a condition. It was the crux of our discussion with the brothers in the PLO and Fatah leaderships. We want the Palestinian national program, and commitment to the program should not be in word alone, but also in deed. We want to cancel all that constitutes a departure from the Palestinian national program. I have not heard the Fatah leaders defend the Amman Agreement as an embodiment of the Palestinian national program and PNC decisions nor as a commitment to, or in implementation of, these decisions. A great deal was said about the circumstances dictating the Amman Agreement, and there are now new circumstances that could bring about — within the framework of Palestinian national unity — a retreat from the Amman Agreement.

That is good. We are not saying "we told you so." We do not advocate digging up the past so as to stand fast on particular issues. In view of the fact that we can, within the framework of the national unification process, overcome all that constituted a departure from the Palestinian national program, then we can all abide by that program again. If you want to call that a condition, then so be it. However, I do not consider it to be a special condition. It is a general national condition common to all the Palestinian factions.

[Ghanim] In the meetings with the Palestinian leaderships, particularly the Fatah leadership, have you reached an understanding or have guarantees been given, for example, to embody all that you have said about continuing the march of Palestinian national unity, particularly regarding the Amman Agreement?

['Abd Rabbuh] There is nothing called a guarantee regarding national action. The only guarantee comes through practice. In other words, any national agreement could or could not continue to exist. The condition for this is for all the national sides to honor and adhere to this national agreement. This is the true guarantee. When there was deviation from the comprehensive national agreement, we began to see signs of a split and fragmentation in the Palestinian arena. Some regional Arab axes benefited from this fragmentation. Therefore, we believe that commitment to the national program requires the cancellation of the Amman Agreement, which would be a true expression of a commitment to the national program. We also believe that commitment to the national agreement necessitates the convening of the PNC and choosing the PLO committees' leaderships on a factional basis, in which the various national Palestinian sides should participate. This also implements and embodies the national agreement. All of these can be called guarantees. Any other guarantees, whether they are on paper or not, are insignificant in this case.

[Ghanim] What is the DFLP's opinion of the Palestinian sides that boycotted the Palestinian writers' conference, and why did they boycott it?

['Abd Rabbuh] We do not see any justification for having boycotted the conference, whether by an organization or an individual person. Within the framework of this conference, each side could have expressed its own views on the political or trade union issues, or even on the structure of the entire conference and its course. This conference was a trade union conference, a people's union, which included the various Palestinian trends and courses. This was not a party congress that had to have complete or semi-complete harmony. This was a conference of a popular union. There are known bases of action regarding popular unions. All those who boycotted the conference — who were a small minority in any case — should have enjoyed this panoramic view. He who wants to boycott a popular union's conference due to a certain political stand on the PLO crisis is mistaken. We must clearly distinguish between a popular union, which includes representatives of all trends, and a political agreement within the PLO framework. I believe that the boycott of the conference was either due to personal reasons, which I cannot explain, or to political reasons, which in no case can be attributed to Palestinian national factors. However, it can be attributed to the influence of Arab interference by this or that regime. Therefore, we cannot see any significance in the boycott of the conference because the sweeping majority participated in it.

[Ghanim] It was noticed that your arrival [in Algiers] was somewhat delayed. Did you face any obstacles?

['Abd Rabbuh] No, I did not face any obstacles. The only obstacles I faced came from the airlines. The same thing happened to me during the Lebanese Communist Party Congress. When the conference ended, the only airline I found was the same airline I used to get there. There are no other reasons.

[Ghanim] You have met with Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]. Have you reached an understanding on the terms for resuming or completing the national Palestinian dialogue?

['Abd Rabbuh] I want to repeat that we have no conditions; we have reached a national agreement. At present we are discussing with the brother Algerians the prospects for an expanded national Palestinian meeting in Algiers that would bring together representatives of Palestinian factions, popular bodies and unions, as well as persons willing to attend. The Prague Agreement can form the basis for such an expanded meeting, which in itself would pave the way for a PNC session. We are calling for an expanded Palestinian meeting because, in our opinion, the unification process must be an ongoing exercise. We must do less talking on that score and take more practical steps toward that end. We believe it is important that the proposed Palestinian meeting should be well-prepared, and we must see to it that the whole range of Palestinian opinion is represented. We cannot force participation on anyone, but we feel a majority of national Palestinian trends are inclined to attend. Together with Fatah and the Palestinian Communist Party, we think it is our duty, as signatories of the Prague Agreement, to propose this document as the basis for an expanded national Palestinian meeting and a national Palestinian dialogue before a PNC session.

[Ghanim] Before proposing this expanded national Palestinian meeting, you held contacts with other Palestinian parties. Did you find them willing to attend, and did you find the Algerians willing to host such a meeting?

['Abd Rabbuh] It was the Algerians, at the initiative of President Bendjedid, who first made the suggestion. A majority of Palestinian forces with any weight in the national Palestinian struggle had agreed to attend on the basis of the Prague Agreement. Certain factions are not happy with the agreement on the grounds that it was signed by three groups. The substance and points of the agreement are, however, acceptable to many parties. Naturally, in the event of an agreement to hold this expanded national Palestinian meeting, we will try to talk those with any lingering objections into attending. We think the chances are now favorable for the meeting; many people have learned from bitter experience that divisions do not lead to success. The chances are that such a national meeting, in which an overwhelming majority of Palestinian national forces takes part, would be a success.

[Ghanim] You sound quite optimistic about the prospects for an early convocation of this meeting, maybe as early as March or April.

['Abd Rabbuh] I don't want to put a timeframe on it, but all I can say is that the chances of its being convened in the coming few weeks are good.

[Ghanim] I wish you the best of luck and thank you.

DFLP Asks Syria To Release Arrested Official

JN241657 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic
23 Feb 87 p 8

[Text] Damascus — *Al-Ittihad* has learned that the DFLP Political Bureau submitted a memorandum to the Syrian command asking it to release Abu al-'Abd, DFLP official in charge of the occupied territories, who was arrested by the Syrian authorities 10 days ago.

A DFLP source told *Al-Ittihad* that DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah, currently in Algeria, will not return to Damascus before the release of Abu al-'Abd.

PLO Calls for Arab League Meeting on Camps

JN242015 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1600 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Brother Hakam Bal'awi, Palestine's permanent representative to the Arab League, has announced that the PLO has called for an emergency Arab League Council meeting of Arab foreign ministers in continuation of the Arab League Council's emergency session on the aggression against the Palestinian camps. This is due to the continued aggression, the siege imposed on the camps several months ago, the ban on food and medical supplies coming into them, and the neglect of the wounded whose number is increasing every day and posing a danger to the lives of our people in Lebanon despite the PLO's commitment to the Arab plan formulated by the Arab League Council ministerial committee.

While shouldering its militant responsibilities to protect the sons of our Palestinian people, the PLO affirms the importance of holding this meeting so that the fraternal Arab countries will shoulder their national and pan-Arab duties to confront the dangers to our Arab nation, especially the dangers threatening the Palestine question and the Palestinian people's struggle.

PLA Praises Syrian Deployment in Beirut

JN242017 Damascus Television Service in Arabic
1830 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] The Palestine Liberation Army [PLA] General Staff Command has praised Arab Syria's historic and courageous decision to send the heroic Syrian Arab forces to West Beirut. A PLA General Staff Command spokesman said the Syrian decision once again reaffirms the vanguard, pan-Arab role steadfast Syria assumes in shouldering its responsibilities to our Arab nation's causes.

The spokesman said the serious conspiracy backed by imperialism and Zionism has had perilous consequences in the Arab arena because of the treasonous Camp David course, the 'Arafatist cliques, and the forces of capitulation. The spokesman affirmed this conspiracy will have the same fate as the ill-omened 17 May agreement which Al-Asad's Syria toppled thanks to its courageous pan-Arab stands.

Jallud Meets Palestinian Leaders in Damascus

LD232217 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 23 Feb 87

[Text] Brother Khalid al-Fahum, speaker of the Palestine National Council, lauded the historic pan-Arab role played by the Great al-Fatih Revolution for sparing Palestinian blood and protecting the Palestinian camps in Lebanon. Al-Fahum lauded the giant efforts exerted, and still being exerted, by the brother leader of the revolution to protect the Palestinian rifle, to stop the Palestinian bloodshed, and to lift the starvation siege from the camps. He stressed that this historic role of the Great al-Fatih Revolution and its leader will be proudly remembered and appreciated by the Palestinian people.

He said that the Great al-Fatih Revolution is at the forefront of the progressive forces, because it represents pan-Arab gains for our Arab nation, the liberation movements, and the Palestinian revolution, and we will do our best to strengthen our alliance with it under the leadership of the struggler, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

This was said during a meeting in Damascus today between Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud and the leaders of the Palestinian National Salvation Front, the DFLP, and the Fatah — Revolutionary Council.

Bendjedid Meets Palestinian Officials in Algiers

LD241153 Algiers APS in English 1012 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Algiers, 24/2/87 (APS) — President Chadli Bendjedid met on Monday here a group of Palestinian leaders, notably, the secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), Nayif Hawatimah the secretary general of the Palestinian Communist Party, Sulayman Nadjal and Abu Iyad, member of the "Fatah" Movement Central Commitee, as part of efforts exerted by Algeria with a view to closing the ranks of the Palestinian resistance.

[Words indistinct] ranged over the ongoing dialogue between the different movements of the Palestinian resistance for achieving unity and the latest developments of the Palestinian people's struggle.

'Arafat Thanks Mitterrand, Craxi for Support

JN241922 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1815 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] sent letters of thanks and appreciation yesterday to French President Francois Mitterrand and Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi for their stands on the tragic state of affairs in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon. The brother leader's letters were delivered by Brother Hakam Bal'awi, PLO representative in Tunis, to the French and Italian ambassadors when he received them last night.

Our correspondent has learned that the two letters also contain several suggestions for saving the camp inhabitants, lifting the siege from the camps, and protecting them from the perils engulfing them.

'Arafat Receives Cable From Zambian President

JN241950 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, received a reply cable from Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda yesterday in response to his cable on the tragic situation of our people in Lebanon's camps. The following is the text of the cable:

Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman. It gives me pleasure to inform you with thanks that I received your message dated 22 January 1987 regarding the dangerous situation facing the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. It truly is a tragedy. The Palestinians, who were forced to leave their homes and country, have become the victims of this exodus without a clear reason. The dream of enemies is liquidating this people.

Actually, I share your proposal for holding an emergency session of the Nonaligned Movement's nine-member committee on the Palestine question to discuss this sad situation and to find possible ways to end it. This, of course, depends on the readiness of the other committee members to hold such a conference.

Your excellency and my dear brother, please accept my best wishes for your good health, and I wish the great Palestinian people a speedy return to their dear homeland.

Qaddumi Visits Italy; Meets Craxi, Andreotti

For reportage on PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi's visit to Italy, including meetings with Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi and Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti, see the Italy section of the 20 February Western Europe *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

PLO National Fund To Move to Abu Dhabi

JN242026 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 23 Feb 87 pp 1, 19

[Text] Dubayy — His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, the UAE president, has agreed to a Palestinian request to headquarter the Palestinian National Fund, affiliated with the PLO, in Abu Dhabi. The president gave his instructions to Foreign Ministry officials to discuss the technical details of the issue with PLO officials. *Al-Bayan* has learned that the president agreed to the request during his meeting with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat during his visit to the UAE at the beginning of February.

It has also been learned that the executive technical talks on transferring the headquarters of the Palestinian National Fund to Abu Dhabi began on 21 February during a meeting between Muhammad Khalifah al-Yusuf, chief of the Economic Relations and International Cooperation Department of the UAE Foreign Ministry, and Anis al-Khatib, PLO office director in the UAE. The talks will be completed when PLO Executive Committee member Jawid al-Ghusayn arrives in the UAE this week. In a telephone contact with *Al-Bayan*, informed Palestinian sources said they expected the transfer to take place very soon.

The Palestinian National Fund has been headquartered in Amman since the Palestinian departure from Beirut. The Palestinian National Fund is responsible for gathering the money that the PLO receives as support, donations, and taxes. It is also responsible for laying down and following up the budgets of all PLO departments and offices. It functions as a finance ministry with complete independence from the Palestinian political leadership on an administrative level. It has an independent board of directors whose chairman is elected by the PNC.

This decision means the transfer of a large part of the PLO money to Abu Dhabi banks.

Arabsat Chairman on Problems, Israeli Satellite

JN221735 Muscat 'UMAN in Arabic 20 Feb 87 p 3

[Interview with Dr Faysal Ahmad Zaydan, chairman of the board of the Arab organization for Satellite Communications — Arabsat, by correspondent Hilal ibn Salim al-Hani'i in Muscat — date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted on Arabsat's establishment] [Al-Han'i] Is there any intention to lease the Arab satellite to a company that will operate it and why?

[Zaydan] There is no intention to lease the Arab satellite to any Arab company. However, there is an intention to lease some channels which are in excess of the Arab countries' needs to any company that makes a request. Under such a lease, a company will exploit the channels for the purpose it wants to attain among Arab countries. We do not intend to give the administration of Arabsat to any company. Arabsat's administration is composed of a General Assembly, a Board of Administration, and an executive body which is headed by a director general. This body implements the tasks entrusted to it by the Board of Administration, and currently supervises production, launching operations, and operations in general.

[Al-Hana'i] Can you summarize the most prominent problems Arabsat is facing?

[Zaydan] At the beginning, Arabsat faced some administrative problems, particularly the training of Arab cadres. We have now overcome this problem. Arab technicians have been appointed for training and we hope they will be able to operate the entire project by the end of this year. At present, experts from a French manufacturing company assists us in the operation of the satellite. [passage omitted]

[Al-Hana'i] Israel announced it will launch a satellite in the same orbit as the Arab satellite that will interfer with its operations. What is Arabsat's reply to this?

[Zaydan] Some problems have emerged following Israel's announcement that it intends to launch a satellite. If launched, such a satellite will not be within the orbit of the Arab satellite because there are international regulations that ban this. At Saudi Arabia's request, the Arab League has started to confront this Israeli project. Saudi Arabia, in cooperation with the other Arab countries and Arabsat, have put things in motion to prevent the Israeli satellite from interfering with the Arab satellite. Contacts have been made with the International Telecommunication Union [ITU] and other international bodies for this purpose. We are also coordinating with the International Telecommunications Satellite Organisation in this respect.

BAHRAIN

Deputy Amir Receives Jordanian Military Official
JN211544 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1325 GMT 21 Feb 87

[Text] Manama, 21 Feb (WAKH) — His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, deputy amir of the State of Bahrain, received Staff Major General Muti' Hammad, assistant to the Jordanian chief of staff, who is currently visiting the country. The meeting was attended by Staff Major General Shaykh Khalifah ibn Ahmad Al Khalifah, chief of staff at the Bahraini Defense Force.

Chief of Staff Leaves for Saudi Arabia
JN241335 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1215 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Manama, 24 Feb (WAKH) — Staff Lieutenant General Shaykh Khalifah ibn Ahmad Al Khalifah, chief of staff of the Bahraini Defense Force, left Manama for Saudi Arabia today in response to an official invitation by Staff General Muhammad Salih al-Hama, chief of staff of the Saudi Army. Staff Lt Gen Shaykh Khalifah will attend the joint tactical military exercise that will be conducted by the Saudi Forces.

KUWAIT

Defense Minister Meets Romanian Military Official
LD241412 Kuwait KUNA in English 1311 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 24 (KUNA) — Visiting First Deputy Defense Minister of Romania Victor Stanculescu conferred here Tuesday with Kuwait's defense minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah on military cooperation between the two countries and means of developing it.

General Stanculescu is expected to leave here on Thursday.

The Romanian official held talks earlier with Kuwait's chief of staff Major General Mazyad al-Sani' and a number of senior defense officers and toured a number of military camps.

Turkish Defense Minister Leaves; Agreement Signed
LD201423 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1312 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Text] Kuwait, 20 Feb (KUNA) — Turkish National Defense Minister Zaki Yavuzturk left Kuwait today following a 4-day visit in response to an invitation by Defense Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah.

A military source told KUNA that prior to the Turkish minister's departure, the Kuwaiti and Turkish sides signed a bilateral military cooperation agreement. The source cited Yavuzturk as saying that during his visit major talks regarding military training and military industry were held and that the two sides achieved good results. Yavuzturk added that Turkey recently made investments in the military industries and because Kuwait is interested in these military ideas, an agreement was signed between the two countries on military training and supplying the necessary expertise.

PDRY

Envoy, Al-Siyayli Speeches on USSR Navy Day
EA241531 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 0330 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] A reception was held yesterday evening at the Soviet Embassy in Aden on the occasion of the 69th anniversary of the establishment of the Soviet Navy. It was attended by Brother Lieutenant Colonel Salih Munassar al-Siyayli, member of the Political Bureau, deputy prime minister and minister of the interior; Brother Sa'id Salih Salim, member of the Political Bureau and minister of state security; Brother Colonel Salih 'Ubayd Ahmad, candidate member of the Political Bureau and minister of defense; Brother Col Haytham Qasim Tahir, member of the Central Committee, deputy minister of defense and commander of the General Staff; and a large number of Armed Forces commanders and party and state officials.

During the reception, speeches were exchanged between Brother Salih Munassar al-Siyayli and Comrade Albert Rachkov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee and Soviet ambassador in Aden, which emphasized the importance of this great occasion in the lives of struggling peoples for the sake of civilization, progress, and peace, and commended the Soviet Army's role in preserving world peace. The speeches also emphasized the joint determination to develop the warm struggle relations between the armies of the two friendly countries on the level of the 1979 friendship and cooperation treaty between the USSR and Democratic Yemen.

Brother al-Siyayli praised the internationalist support the USSR extends to Democratic Yemen in all spheres and emphasized our party's and country's determination to stabilize the pillars of Yemeni-Soviet friendship. Comrade Rachkov emphasized the USSR's determination to continue unlimited support for Democratic Yemen in all fields to serve the progress and prosperity of the Yemeni people and to contribute to supporting international security and stability.

YSP's Muhsin Returns From Damascus 21 February
EA221719 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 0330 GMT 22 Feb 87

[Excerpt] Brother Sa'id 'Abdallah Muhsin, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the [YSP] Central Committee, returned to Aden from Damascus yesterday afternoon following a visit lasting several days to the Syrian Arab Republic at the invitation of the Ba'th Arab Socialist Party. [passage omitted]

Supreme People's Council Group Departs for Libya

EA232149 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 23 Feb 87

[Text] A Supreme People's Council delegation led by Brother Muhammad Salim Ba Dinar, member of the Central Committee and secretary of the Presidium, left Aden for the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah this morning to participate in the Arab People's Congress to be held 25 February-2 March this year.

YSP Endorses Visits to Ethiopia, Kuwait

EA230012 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 Feb 87

[Text] At its meeting this morning under the chairmanship of Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, YSP Central Committee secretary general, the Political Bureau endorsed the results of the visit by Brother Salim Salih Muhammad, Central Committee assistant secretary general, to socialist Ethiopia and his meeting with Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, WPE secretary general, PMAC chairman, and commander in chief of the Ethiopian Revolutionary Armed Forces. The Political Bureau appraised the results of the visit which reiterated the continuation of principled relations between the Yemeni and Ethiopian revolutions and their joint determination to continue developing these relations as an embodiment of the historic links and strategic objectives of the two friendly parties and countries. The Political Bureau considered this visit a way of consolidating the bilateral relations which serve the common objectives and tasks of the two parties and peoples of Democratic Yemen and socialist Ethiopia.

The Political Bureau also endorsed the results of the participation by our country's delegation, led by Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Presidium of the People's Supreme Council, in the fifth ICO summit conference held in Kuwait 26-29 January 1987. It expressed its gratification at the results of the meetings and talks held with the heads of delegations participating in the conference which embodied our country's desire to make its contribution to cooperation and understanding between peoples and strengthening security and stability in relations with other countries.

The Political Bureau also endorsed the visit paid by Comrade Muhammad Sa'id 'Abdallah Muhsin, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee, to Syria and the meetings he held with comrades in the leadership of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party. It expressed its gratification at the good results of this visit which will contribute to consolidating relations between the two sisterly countries in their joint struggle to cement Arab solidarity to confront imperialist and Zionist plots in the area and to coordinate their joint efforts on issues vital to the interests of the two sisterly countries and issues of the Arab national liberation movement in general.

Al-Bid, Al-'Attas on Rebuilding, Reunification

PM231012 Milan L'UNITA in Italian 17 Feb 87 p 8

[Giancarlo Lannutti dispatch: "Aden Proffers Hand to Neighbors and Italy Too"]

[Text] Aden — Just 10 months after the tragic events of January 1986 the South Yemeni capital is apparently back to normal. The huge reconstruction effort has been successful and only a few buildings still bear the marks of the gunfire and rockets. The same applies to the overall situation, which seems basically to have returned to normal, though patrols of troops and militiamen are still frequently to be seen at night. This was confirmed to us by YSP Secretary General 'Ali Salim al-Bid, who spoke both confidently and realistically.

"I can assure you," Al-Bid said verbatim, "that most of the subversion that stemmed from the conspiracy (of 'Ali Nasir Muhammad — *L'unita* editor's note) has now been overcome. We have reorganized the party's activity and that of the mass organizations, which have held successful congresses. Elections have been held to the Supreme People's Council and local councils, with an unprecedented turnout of 86 percent of voters. We have also tackled the problem of families that suffered casualties, which is a major financial problem. We can state that the situation is constantly improving. But we must bear in mind that the bloodthirsty events of 13 January have had and will continue to have a social impact on those whose relatives were killed or went to the North (the Yemen Arab Republic, where 'Ali Nasir Muhammad went — *L'unita* editor's note) and also on the young generations, youngsters, whom we must guide along the right path. The party is fully committed to resolving these problems."

So the problems are not only human and social but economic, too, and their solution is described by 'Ali Salim al-Bid as "our key task at the present time": On the whole the signs are "good, optimistic, even though there are difficulties to surmount." South Yemen is poor in natural resources. Soviet specialists recently discovered oil there (an initial positive test drilling was carried out by the Italian National Oil Company), but so far it represents only a potential resource. At present, the principal sources of exports and therefore of currency are fishing (especially lobsters, which are exported throughout the world and which were until recently jokingly known as "Yemeni oil") and agriculture, which produces export cotton, tobacco, tropical fruits, and honey. But cultivated land accounts for only 1 percent of a total land surface of approximately 300,000 square km, the rest being desert and almost entirely mountainous — so much so that it is necessary to import approximately half the green vegetables and potatoes needed to satisfy food requirements and self-sufficientcy will only be reached in 3 years' time if the projects now under way are successful.

So, South Yemen needs technical assistance and aid and is ready to seek them without ideological prejudices. Naturally the prime position in bilateral relations is held by the USSR and the socialist countries, "but the consolidation of these relations," 'Ali Salim al-Bid said, "does not mean neglecting relations with other countries. We are willing to maintain relations with them all, on the basis of mutual advantage and noninterference in internal affairs. We already have economic relations with many capitalist countries and want to consolidate and develop them further. We want to develop relations with Italy too — but," he added with a hint of asperity, "so far we have not encountered equal interest on the other side." Cooperation projects were defined with Italy in autumn 1985 during Under Secretary Corti's visit to Aden, but since 13 January everything has remained in abeyance.

Here we come to another delicate issue. Since the end of the bloodthirsty clashes a year ago the new leadership group in Aden has had to contend with the mistrust and reservations (if not hostility) of the countries of the region, of the "Arab brothers" themselves and of a substantial proportion of the Middle Eastern Left, while the rest of the world has stood by and watched. Relations with North Yemen and Ethiopia, which granted refuge to 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and his supporters, were virtually severed. But in this field things have changed now as well. Let us hear what President Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas has to say about it.

"Our relations with the neighboring fraternal states," he said, "are good now: We have tried to ensure that the events of January did not have negative influences on these relations. I have visited a number of these countries (particularly Algeria and Syria, while Secretary General al-Bid has been to Addis Ababa — *L'unita* editor's note) and had meetings at the Kuwait summit with a number of presidents and sovereigns. We are determined to develop good relations with all our neighbors on the basis of the principles of peaceful coexistence, mutual respect, and noninterference in each other's internal affairs."

The problem of relations with the north, with the Yemen Arab Republic, is more complex. Divided by their different systems (and alliances) but united by the aspiration to reunify the "historical homeland" (each of the two states automatically regards any Yemeni, whether of the north or the south, as one of its own citizens) and by family and tribal ties, the two Yemens have alternated periods of tension and even armed confrontation with periodic "reconciliation" meetings for which special equal-based organizations exist. Relations experienced another period of crisis with the escape to the north of 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and several thousands of his supporters (the Western media say 10,000, some even 20,000-30,000, but according to Al-Bid "all these figures are exaggerated, dictated by propaganda.")

"With our brothers in North Yemen," President al-'Attas said, "we are determined to pursue the dialogue to resolve all the problems between us, including that of the people persuaded to go north and who now want to return to their homes and families (indeed, according to Aden many of the exiles want to return and it is 'Ali Nasir and Sanaa that are preventing them from doing so — *L'unita* editor's note). We believe it is the joint task of both parts of the country to resolve this problem and to help eliminate the negative consequences of the January events so as to continue the task of unitary building. Following the amnesty announced by our government (which has released 4,000-7,000 people and is extended to exiles, excluding a group of 48 specifically named people — *L'unita* editor's note) we have expressed our welcome to all brothers who want to return from the north, guaranteeing their safety and the exercise of all the civil rights envisaged by our Constitution. The talks are continuing," Al-'Attas concluded, "and we hope to reach positive results. This will help us to consolidate and further develop overall relations between the two parts of our country."

Perhaps these remarks were too optimistic in view of the mistrust still apparent in the north. But in a country whose unitary traditions date back to the dawn of history, to the legendary reign of the Queen of Sheba, the impetus to restore unity remains very strong, irrespective of current regimes and governments.

SAUDI ARABIA

Council of Ministers Examine Lebanese Situation
LD231956 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1616 GMT 23 Feb 87

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 23 Feb (SPA) — King Fahd Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, chaired a Council of Ministers meeting this afternoon.

After the meeting, Information Minister Ali al-Shamir told a SPA correspondent that at the start of the meeting, the Council acquainted itself with directives from the custodian of the two holy mosques on the latest political and security matters on the Arab scene, in particular the situation in Lebanon.

In this respect, the minister said: The Council has reaffirmed the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's constant eagerness for the ensurance of security in the Palestinian camps and for their population, the sons of the Palestinian people, to be be protected from any aggression against them, as well as for the further securing of their needs in provisions, foodstuff, and medical care in the camps.

The Council has urged the Lebanese belligerents to work for the fulfillment of this humanitarian and just request.

The information minister said the custodian of the two holy mosques then examined with the Council issues related to internal matters in various domains, in the service of the homeland and the citizens. [passage omitted]

Fahd Receives Mauritanian; Lebanese, YAR Newsmen
LD221813 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1515 GMT 22 Feb 87

[Text] Riyadh, 22 Feb (SPA) — King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, received Mohamed Mahmoud Ould Widadi, Mauritanian culture and information minister, at the Royal Court this afternoon. The Mauritanian minister conveyed to him the greetings of his brother, Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, president of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

The custodian of the two holy mosques, may God safeguard him, also received Lebanese journalist Doyen Milhim Karam, at the Royal Court this afternoon. The custodian of the two holy mosques expressed the Kingdom's continuing sympathy with Lebanon and the Lebanese, reaffirming that the Kingdom is always eager to remedy the Lebanese situation by all possible means. He underscored the importance of cooperation among the

Lebanese people themselves as the only way of salvation from Lebanon's current painful plight. He stressed that such cooperation is of paramount importance. He also noted that the Kingdom has made and continues to make all possible efforts and endeavors along with its Arab brothers for the restoration of security and stability in fraternal Lebanon.

He, may God safeguard him, said the only sides which stand to benefit from the situation in Lebanon are the enemies of the Arab and Islamic nations. He pointed out that while there can be compensation for material losses, there cannot be any for human losses. The custodian of the two holy mosques voiced hope for the success of the current efforts and endeavors so that Lebanon could regain its health and so that the fraternal Lebanese people, who have suffered so much, could again enjoy security and stability.

Milhim Karam expressed his gratitude and the gratitude of all Lebanese journalists for what the custodian of the two holy mosques has done and is doing for Lebanon and its people, and for the sincere efforts made to end Lebanon's plight.

King Fahd, custodian of the two holy mosques, this afternoon at the Royal Court also received the Yemeni press delegation consisting of the chief editors of a number of YAR publications who are currently on a visit to the Kingdom.

He welcomed the members of the delegation in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, their second home, and talked about the strong fraternal ties between the Kingdom and YAR based on cooperation in the interest of the two fraternal countries and the Arab and Islamic nations.

He said: We consider Yemen and the Kingdom to be one and the same country joined by faith, language, and blood since times immemorial.

The custodian of the two holy mosques praised the YAR's great progress in the various fields of reconstruction, industry, and culture under the leadership of YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. He also underlined the importance of the exchange of bilateral visits because they enable them to see the progress and development achieved in all fields.

He asked the Yemeni delegation to convey his greetings to his brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and to the prime minister and other officials and to the fraternal Yemeni people.

The Yemeni press delegation expressed their thanks and appreciation to the custodian of the two holy mosques. They hailed the great development they witnessed in the Kingdom in the fields of industry, agriculture, reconstruction, culture, and health.

UAE

WAKH: Bank Governor on Reduced Oil Revenue

JN201201 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1030 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Excerpt] Al-Shariqah, 20 Feb (WAKH) — 'Abd al-Malik al-Hamar, UAE Central Bank governor, has denied there is a link between a drop in UAE oil revenue and a reduced exchange rate of the dirham due to its being pegged to the U.S. dollar. Al-Hamar attributed the reduction in oil revenues to low oil prices and to the cut in the UAE's oil production quota in accordance with OPEC decisions.

In a statement published by the newspaper *Al-Khalij* in Al-Shariqah today, Al-Hamar said the UAE's total crude oil exports fell from around $11.4 billion in 1984 to roughly $10.5 billion and $6.4 billion in 1985 and 1986, respectively. In accordance with OPEC decisions, the UAE agreed to reduce its production quota from 1.2 million barrels a day more than a year ago to 950,000 barrels a day by the end of 1986 and to 900,000 barrels a day in the first half of 1987. [Passage omitted]

YAR

President Receives Fahd Envoy, Message

JN211644 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Feb 87

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received Shaykh 'Ali ibn Muslim, adviser to the Saudi Royal Court, at his office today. During the meeting, Shaykh 'Ali ibn Muslim conveyed a written message from King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, to the brother president. The message deals with relations between the two fraternal countries, Arab and Islamic issues, and international issues of common interest. The meeting was attended by Brother 'Abdallah ibn Husayn al-Ahmar, member of the Consultative Council and the Standing Committee, and His Excellency Brother 'Ali al-Qusaybi, ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Sanaa.

Shaykh 'Ali ibn Muslim, adviser to King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, arrived in Sanaa earlier today on a 2-day visit to our country. He noted that he brought a message from King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-Aziz to Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress. Upon arrival he was received by 'Abdallah ibn Husayn al-Ahmar, member of the Consultative Council and the Standing Committee; a protocol representative; and His Excellency Ali al-Qusaybi, ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Sanaa.

Envoy Departs

JN212045 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Feb 87

[Text] Shaykh 'Ali ibn Muslim, adviser to King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, left Sanaa today at the conclusion of a brief visit to our country during which he conveyed a message from King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two Holy Mosques, to his brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress.

In a statement to SABA', Shaykh 'Ali ibn Muslim said he is carrying a reply message from brother leader 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to his brother King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two Holy Mosques.

Upon departure, Shaykh 'Ali ibn Muslim was seen off by Brother 'Abdallah ibn Husayn al-Ahmar, member of the Consultative Council and the Standing Committee; protocol representative; and His Excellency 'Ali al-Qusaybi, the ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Sanaa. Shaykh 'Ali ibn Muslim arrived in Sanaa earlier today.

Congress Delegation Leaves for Meetings in Libya

JN241902 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Dr Ahmad al-Asbahi, Standing Committee secretary general, left Sanaa for Tripoli this morning heading a delegation of the General People's Congress [GPC] and the Standing Committee to attend sessions of the Libyan GPC.

Dr al-Asbahi told SABA' he was carrying a letter from President Salih, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and secretary general of the GPC, to his brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September revolution. The GPC's participation in sessions of its Libyan counterpart, he pointed out, falls within the framework of mutual visits and contacts, reflecting the pan-Arab and unionist approach of the GPC to sisterly Arab countries.

Al-Asbahi said that during his visit to Tripoli meetings will be held with the secretariat and officials of the Libyan GPC in light of minutes of cooperation signed by the two countries' Congresses to reinforce bilateral ties in the interest of joint Arab action and fateful Arab causes.

Prime Minister Receives British Official

JN231307 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT
23 Feb 87

[Text] Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, member of the Standing Committee, received this afternoon Timothy Renton, minister of state at the British Foreign Office, currently visiting the YAR. The meeting was attended by the British ambassador in Sanaa. The British minister was also received separately by 'Abd al-Karim al- Iryani, deputy prime minister and member of the Standing Committee. In both meetings, discussions dealt with bilateral relations, the Mideast problem, and other issues of common concern. Renton arrived in Sanaa earlier in the day on a 2-day visit to the YAR.

Renton Departs 24 Feb

JN241832 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Timothy Renton, minister of state at the British Foreign Office, left Sanaa this afternoon following a 2-day visit to the YAR. Renton told SABA' he held talks with 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and Standing Committee member; Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and Standing Committee member; and Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister, minister of development, head of the central planning organ, and Standing Committee member; as well as with Foreign Ministry officials on bilateral ties and issues of common concern, particularly the Mideast crisis, the Iraq-Iran war, and the situation in Lebanon. He also discussed a British plan for technical cooperation and general trade ties, Renton said.

He said he conveyed an invitation from British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe to Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, to visit the UK. Renton was seen off at the airport by Ahmad al-Iryani, under secretary at the Foreign Ministry, and by the British ambassador in Sanaa.

Israel's Peres Arrives for 2-Day Working Visit

NC251007 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres arrived in Cairo before noon today for a 2-day working visit.

Further Reportage

For Israeli media coverage of the visit to Egypt by Israeli Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, please see the Israel section of the 25 February 1987 Mideast *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

'Abd al-Majid Welcomes EC Support for Conference

NC241329 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1208 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Cairo, 24 Feb (MENA) — Egypt today welcomed the statement issued by EC foreign ministers in Brussels yesterday. In thestatement, the foreign ministers expressed support for an international conference for peace in the Middle East, as a framework for the desired negotiations among the parties concerned. They also affirmed their adherence to the principles of the Venice Declaration, and their conviction an international conference constitutes a practical way to resolve the Middle East issue.

This came in a comment by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, on the European statement. Dr 'Abd al-Majid said Egypt, which has always worked for a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the Middle East, and has urged European countries to make an effective contribution toward the attainment of this goal, considers the EC foreign ministers statement issued in Brussels yesterday as a positive and constructive step. This move, he said, is worthy of respect, and emphasizes the interest Europe takes in the Middle East issue. It also constitutes a warning that a continuation of the current situation is dangerous. The statement, he continued, proves Europe's desire to give an impetus to peace by supporting an international conference as a framework for the desired negotiations among the parties concerned. It also affirms Europe's adherence to the principles of the Venice Declaration, and its belief that the international conference is the practical way to resolve the issue.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid declared while Egypt welcomes this important step by the EC, it hopes the Community will continue to participate effectively in efforts to pave the way for an international conference and to remove all obstacles from its path. Egypt, he said, also urges other international parties to make increased efforts in this regard. Thus, he concluded, 1987 will be a year of negotiations for a just and comprehensive peace to guarantee the rights of all peoples and countries of the Middle East, and achieve peace and stability for those peoples and for the entire world.

7 African Leaders To Meet in Cairo in March

NC210813 Cairo MENA in English 2140 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Text] Cairo, 20 Feb (MENA) — Seven African presidents will be visiting Cairo, March 7, for a meeting, March 11, with President Husni Mubarak, reports tomorrow's *Akhbar Al-Yawm* in a front-page item.

The African leaders, who are members of the Bureau of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), will be having meetings with the president on all African issues, the international situation and bilateral relations.

Presidents Denis Sassou-Nguesso of Congo and Hassan Gouled of Djibouti will be among the African leaders, who will be visiting Cairo, *Akhbar Al-Yawm* adds.

Tomorrow's *Al-Jumhuriyah* is carrying a similar front-page report which is referring to Egypt's keenness on promoting its African ties, consulting on political and economic issues and solving these issues in accordance with OAU resolutions.

Egypt is a member of the OAU bureau, adds *Al-Jumhuriyah*.

'Abd al-Majid Discusses Arab, Mideast Ties, USSR

PM201511 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 20 Feb 87 pp 26-28

[Interview with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al- Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, by Nash'at al-Taghlabi in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Introductory passage omitted] [Al-Taghlabi] Do you believe the situation will change over the next 3 years, before the 6th [Islamic] summit is held in Senegal, and will the resolutions adopted [at the Kuwait ICO summit] be implemented?

['Abd al-Majid] We often call resolutions taken at international conferences "recommendations," as in the case of the UN General Assembly. We, as member-states of an international or Islamic organization, always hope resolutions will be implemented. What is decided at a conference is regarded as an indication of an ideological line on the international problems we are facing. It is true we might disagree on some decisions, but we should not ask any international organization for something beyond its capacity. If we take, for instance, the Middle East problem, we might find the most important thing in this problem is the call for an international peace conference. For our part, we believe in this idea and are working toward achieving it, as we are already in constant contact with all parties. Egypt is the only party to the Middle East conflict in contact with all parties — Arab, U.S., and Israeli parties. This explains to some extent the existence of an agreement among all countries calling for a peace conference. The holding of an international conference is not dependent upon just one or two countries; there has to be unanimity. Therefore I maintain if the resolutions adopted at the Islamic summit are not implemented, they will remain merely ink on paper. These resolutions have their effects; let us call them moral effects. They also have their various inclinations. At the same time, when resolutions do not include certain issues, like those raised by Syria, it means the international community has a specific stand toward these issues. It is true the convening of the Islamic summit was a kind of challenge to those who tried first to prevent it fron being held and then to lead it toward failure. We all heard in Kuwait just before the arrival of the heads of state there was a likelihood of terrorist operations; this was psychological warfare. Of course, Kuwait was the first country to resist this warfare. Egypt insisted on attending the summit and many countries supported Kuwait, so consequently the summit was held. We believe it was held in peace and was successful, praise be to God. These were the lessons learned from the Islamic summit in Kuwait.

[Al-Taghlabi] Although the Islamic summit was a valuable lesson, two factors emerged during its sessions: The first was the recourse to logic and the effort to remove differences; the second was the attempts to avoid clashes resulting from differences of view. This made many people wonder whether it would be possible to benefit from such factors to hold an Arab summit similar to that held on the periphery of the Islamic summit?

['Abd al-Majid] This is absolutely right. Undoubtedly, the spirit all of us Arab and Islamic states experienced was a spirit of reason, wisdom, and renouncing of differences. Despite all attempts, the management of the conference, whether at the level of his highness the amir of Kuwait or at the level of Prime Minister Shaykh S'ad al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, was characterized by prudence and, thank God, fulfilled its mission. As for the Arab summit, the side meetings that took place were altogether a semi-Arab summit in everything but official name. This is something we in Egypt regret, because why should not the spirit that dominated the Islamic conference also dominate an Arab conference? I, as an Arab citizen, would ask: Is it possible for one or two countries to obstruct a conference that would include more than 20 countries? Anyhow, this question is left to the Arab countries themselves; that is, the countries that can decide to hold an Arab summit. If we compare the Arab summit, which does not meet, with the African summit, which meets despite the differences among its members, we will find the latter is usually held annually and reguarly in Addis Ababa, the OAU Headquarters, although some of its members are Arab countries.

[Al-Taghlabi] An important point was discussed among quite a few ICO members, who recalled President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's statement that Egypt will not abandon the Arab Gulf if it is attacked. Some asked: Does this mean Egypt would intervene militarily?

['Abd al-Majid] What should be taken into consideration is Egypt's link to the Arab Gulf states. It is a link of destiny, security, strategy, and pan-Arab motives; it has all these constituents. As for military intervention, I am not in a position to talk about it because there are constitutional rules that govern this subject and they must be agreed upon. These matters require planning and preparations. But what is certain and clear to the entire world and to our Arab brothers is Egypt's weight must be taken into account even by those who try to ignore it. Egypt, with its manpower and great resources, does affect the balance. During our stay in Kuwait and contacts with our Arab brothers we noticed the increasing understanding of Egypt's position. This is an encouraging start. We hope matters will not reach a point that might require military intervention. It is well known Egypt is backing Iraq. This is a natural situation, because we consider Iraq to be the protective armor of the Arab region against Iranian hegemony and domination, which we reject. We call upon Iran to bring an end to the war.

[Al-Taghlabi] What surprised some members of the Islamic conference was President Mubarak's call to conclude a treaty of nonaggression among the Islamic states. It is true to say the call itself was not surprising as much as the fact it was the worsening situation that prompted Egypt to make this suggestion. The summit was Islamic and the teachings of Islam do not allow fighting among Muslims.

['Abd al-Majid] The teachings of the religion must certainly be applied, but regrettably we see some countries do not respect these teachings. Therefore, Egypt had to call upon the countries, Iran in particular, to work to end this war. This is called for not only by religious teachings but also by all international charters. The UN Charter also provides for the right of self-defense. Therefore, it should be clear that when the president calls for the conclusion of a nonaggression treaty, he does this in accordance with both the teachings of religion and international charters.

[Al-Taghlabi] A persistent question was being asked by many in Kuwait, and is still being asked in many Arab countries. The question in short is: Although President Mubarak went to Kuwait within the framework of the Islamic summit, the reception accorded him had nothing directly to do with the conference itself since it was a popular as well as official reception; that is, it was unlike the severed diplomatic ties between the two countries. Will this kind of relationship remain until the Baghdad resolutions are canceled or will relations naturally develop before such a cancellation takes place?

['Abd al-Majid] The Arab-Egyptian attachment and affiliation are stronger than any diplomatic relations. It might sound strange for me, as a foreign minister, to say something like this but regarding our Arab relations, we do not restrict ourselves to diplomatic procedures. Proof of this was the meetings at the conference or afterwards, when President Mubarak visited the UAE, where he was officially received. I mean the nonexistence of diplomatic relations did not stop Shaykh Zayid and UAE officials and people from receiving the president officially. In fact this has made an impression on us. Speaking of diplomatic relations, I would like to stress Egypt did not sever its diplomatic relations with anyone. Relations were severed in accordance with the Baghdad summit resolutions. Relations were not severed collectively; in fact some countries maintained their relations with Egypt, as in the case of Oman, Sudan, and Somalia. On the other hand, it must be said the Baghdad summit resolutions are questionable, even legally, because, as was said, they have no legal authority. This probably prompted some countries, namely Jordan and Djibouti, to take their own initiatives and restore relations with Egypt. Egypt welcomes such steps and the initiatives taken by Arab states on restoring relations with Egypt, but Egypt simultaneously does not and will not request the restoration of relations.

[Al-Taghlabi] An important question was raised in this respect: Does not the visit to the UAE, the way it took place, indicate the restoration of relations between the two countries?

['Abd al-Majid] Of course. Indeed, if we take the legal interpretation we would find what happened is considered to be restoration of relations of the highest order.

[Al-Taghlabi] After the visit to the UAE the road seems open for many such visits. It has even been reported President Mubarak will shortly visit Saudi Arabia.

['Abd al-Majid] (Diplomatically) I have no information about this subject but I would imagine it is natural for the president to visit any Arab state and this could happen any time.

[Al-Taghlabi] If we leave aside the Islamic summit and the encouraging atmosphere that prevailed at it, we find we must return to the worries of the East, foremost among which is the Palestinian problem, an international conference, and the preparatory committee of that conference. Many questions about this preparatory committee are being raised as to who among the Arabs and the Palestinians is qualified to deal with the Palestinian issue within an international framework?

['Abd al-Majid] The subject of an international conference is crucial to reactivating the situation. Views on the preparatory committee might differ. For instance, some states believe there is no need for such a committee and we can go directly to the international conference when all the terms of convening are met. But Egypt does not agree with this view and believes any international conference of this kind must be well prepared. We had an idea but we did not insist on it because we are flexible and ready to consider other ideas. The Security Council permanent members have a special responsibilty for international peace and security. As they are permanent members of the Security Council under the UN Charter, they could prepare among themselves for an international conference in a manner we might call unofficial, without the participation of the parties concerned at the initial stage to avoid problems occurring among these parties. We submit this idea, although we do not insist on it because we are ready to consider other ideas. But, of course, all parties concerned, including the PLO, must participate in an international conference. The international conference will be an international umbrella under which direct negotiation should take place. Such negotiations could only be direct. This is one aspect of the conference for which we are calling. Just as we have our own views, the views of others must be taken into consideration. Ignoring the idea of an international conference without presenting an alternative is not conducive to reactivating the situation. In fact there is almost unanimity on an international conference; even the United States is not against the conference but merely has some reservations. The United States says it prefers direct negotiations. But if direct negotiations outside an international conference are not possible, what would the solution be?

[Al-Taghlabi] The term "parties concerned" is often used without these parties being specified.

['Abd al-Majid] The parties concerned are those who have interests in the issues to be debated: Syria, Lebanon, the PLO, Egypt, and Jordan. That is, all the countries concerned with the Arab-Israeli conflict.

[Al-Taghlabi] Matters are now clear to some extent, but what is not clear is, if Israel is refusing to give up the West Bank, or let us say most of it, and is also refusing to recognize the PLO and even the Palestinian people, whether there is any Arab readiness to relinquish some of the occupied territories? Is Israel expected to change its attitude toward an international conference?

['Abd al-Majid] We completely reject the Israeli position and say: It must be clear Israel should withdraw from all the occupied territories, from the West Bank, from Gaza, and from the Golan Heights. This is Egypt's position. We will never accept the seizure of land by force because, first of all, this is against the provisions of Resolution 242, which are clear regarding seizure ofland by force. There are also principles provided for. [sentence as published]. We would consider any moves toward settling the Arab-Israeli conflict provided they are based on Resolution 242; that is, against seizing land by force. This means Egypt does not accept the present occupation of any part of the Arab territories, especially the West Bank, Gaza, and the Golan Heights.

[Al-Taghlabi] Despite the ambiguity of Resolution 242 on whether the withdrawal should be from all "the occupied territories" or from some "occupied territories"?

['Abd al-Majid] Our interpretation is that the withdrawal should be from all the territories. This was the interpretation applied to Sinai. The withdrawal should be from all occupied territories. Egypt's stand in this respect is clear and I would like to confirm it. We cannot accept Israel's continued occupation of any part of the occupied Arab territories. [passage omitted]

[Al-Taghlabi] The U.S. attitude toward Egypt in particular, and the Arab countries in general, is sometimes astonishing and at other times raises questions. Despite all the clarifications, this attitude remains ambiguous. Let us take as an example Washington's attitude toward Egyptian debts and the interest on them. Will this attitude become positive or will it remain half positive and half negative; that is, neither one thing nor the other?

['Abd al-Majid] We are in constant contact with the U.S. side and explain to it what needs explaining. The principle to which we adhere to is we wish to respect our international obligations and, at the same time, we must be in a position to fulfill those obligations. Some of the difficulties Egypt is experiencing are due to reasons beyond its control. For example, the drop in oil prices, the decline in remittances from Egyptians working abroad because of the recession in the Arab countries, and the decrease in shipping traffic in the Suez Canal. Egypt has no control over these factors. Our loss in oil revenues this year alone was $1.5 billion. Egypt, of course, is a developing country and has a 5-year development plan. It has commitments, and it is not easy for it to make up these revenues. However, Egypt has encouraging potential resources. This is what we explain to the U.S. side and to the IMF, and we hope they will understand these conditions. [passage omitted]

[Al-Taghlabi] What changes have taken place in Egypt's Arab stand? Some attribute the weakness of this stand in the late seventies and early eighties to two factors: The first is Egypt isolated itself from the Arabs following the severance of diplomatic relations. This isolation was accompanied by the emergence of views that Egypt is not Arab or that it is pharaonic. The second factor is that following 'Abd al-Nasir's departure Egypt has willingly abandoned the role it was playing.

['Abd al-Majid] I do not agree with this view. I regard our genuine affiliation with our Arab nation as a genuine part of our existence and destiny. Regardless of disagreements and of such alien views, the essence of Egypt's Arabism will remain untouched. We must remain convinced of this reality and adhere to Arab sentiments. It is true there have been differences in views but we should not blame this on the Egyptian policy. The Arab policy, too, is responsible to a large extent for the situation we are in.

As you said, Egypt has played its role following the terrible defeat in 1967. I consider the major turning point to be the October 1973 war. The man who decided on this war was the late Al-Sadat. This war was not a haphazard affair or unplanned. Not many people realize it was not a spur-of-the-moment decision but was preceded by planning, preparations, and intensive thinking. I was foreign minister in Dr Mahmud Fawzi's government in 1970 and saw at close quarters the Egyptian preparations for the 1973 battle, which took the world by surprise and which was labeled an "earthquake" in Israel. There is no doubt about this.

We will now move on to the attempts to solve the problem peacefully and take as an example the Fes summit resolution, which in itself was a peaceful initiative the Arab countries, including Syria, accepted. Article 7 of the Fes resolution contains a recognition of Israel. Therefore, there are certain concepts some of the Arab countries were late in grasping. But there can be no doubt the October war shifted the situation from a war option to a political and diplomatic one. Concerning the Arabs' disagreement with us in viewing the provisions of the Camp David accords, it is their right to do so, just as it is our right. But when I look at the Egyptian efforts within Camp David to solve the problem gradually I see they lead to the Palestinian people realizing their right to self-determination. When we disagreed with Israel over this concept the negotiations on autonomy stopped. Despite Egypt's relations with Israel, these relations have placed no constraints on Egypt's action in the Arab and Islamic world. When we see Israel's stand deserves to be condemned, we condemn it. When we see Israel is making a positive move toward an international conference, for example, we regard it as positive. Such matters must be viewed as a whole and not in parts. We are linked to the Arab nation and the Arab nation is linked to us. We adhere to our stands on solving the Palestinian problem. The issue here is how to help Egypt act and not to hamper its action. Of course, several Arab countries support Egypt in its actions. But it is the Arab people that pay the price of disagreements. [passage omitted]

Therefore, Egyptian action in the Arab arena is very strong and continuing. We found it to be satisfactory. Regarding the Iraq-Iran war, Egypt has sided with Iraq, despite the fact Iraq hosted the Baghdad summit [which decided to break ties with Egypt], while other Arab countries have adopted a questionable attitude. What is the fate of the Joint Arab Defense Pact? I would like to take this opportunity to make it clear the Egyptian policy is a pan-Arab policy based on our links and affiliation to the Arab world. There is no need to blame Egypt alone for the mistakes. If some Arab countries look carefully at what is going on at home they will find a large proportion of the problems are due to alienation with Egypt and the attempts to harm it or harm certain Egyptian interests. [passage omitted]

[Al-Taghlabi] There is another issue of great interest on various levels. Briefly, the important question is, putting aside economic matters between the Soviet Union and Egypt, in what direction are the political ties between the two countries heading at present?

['Abd al-Majid] They are going in a good direction. We have felt the Soviet Union wants to respect our sovereignty, does not want to interfere in our internal affairs, and wants to deal with us on a totally equal footing. I also see mutual understanding between us and the Soviet Union, which is welcome to both sides.

Reportage on Visit by Tanzanian Defense Minister

Arrives 19 Feb

NC191921 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1650 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 19 Feb (MENA) — Salim Ahmed Salim, Tanzanian deputy prime minister and minister of defense and national service, arrived in Cairo from Addis Ababa this evening. His 3-day official visit to Egypt is in response to an invitation from Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

On his arrival, Salim Ahmed Salim said that during his visit he will convey greetings from Tanzanian President Ali Hassan Mwinya to President Husni Mubarak. He added he had come on a mission involving discussions with Egyptian Government officials on the current situation in Africa and ways to promote cooperation between Egypt and Tanzania. [passage omitted]

Meets With 'Abd al-Majid

NC211227 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 21 Feb 87

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, conferred with Salim Ahmed Salim, Tanzanian deputy prime minister and minister of defense and national service, and his accompanying delegation today.

The meeting, also attended by the Tanzanian ambassador to Cairo, involved a discussion of ways to boost bilateral ties and cooperation in all aspects. Recent Middle East developments and current efforts to bring a lasting and durable peace to the area were also reviewed. The two sides also discussed the threats the racist regime in Pretoria poses to neighboring African nations.

Holds Talks With Mubarak

NC221127 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1027 GMT 22 Feb 87

[Text] Cairo, 22 Feb (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Salim Ahmed Salim, Tanzanian deputy prime minister and minister of defense and national service, and his accompanying delegation today. Also present at the meeting were Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the Tanzanian ambassador to Cairo.

Delivers Message to Mubarak

NC221342 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1127 GMT 22 Feb 87

[Text] Cairo, 22 Feb (MENA) — Speaking after an audience with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today, Salim Ahmed Salim, Tanzanian deputy prime minister and minister of defense and national service, said he had conveyed to President Mubarak a message from the Tanzanian president dealing with bilateral ties. In his message, the Tanzanian president acknowledged the importance of Egypt's role in Africa and expressed a desire to see bilateral ties further developed.

Salim said that during the meeting he discussed with President Mubarak current conditions in South Africa, the policies of racial discrimination adopted by the South African regime, and the effects of those policies on all African nations.

The Tanzanian official said President Mubarak stressed the need for continuous support for the South African people in their struggle for independence and security.

Salim also said Egyptian-Tanzanian cooperation is long-standing in the economic, technical, and political fields. He added he sensed Cairo's wish to further this cooperation, as both nations are exerting similar efforts to achieve development. There is coordination and cooperation between Egypt and Tanzania in the OAU, the Nonaligned Movement, and the United Nations, he said.

The Tanzanian official praised Egypt's pioneering role in supporting African liberation movements and contributing to development efforts on the continent. He noted Egypt and Tanzania also cooperate militarily.

Meets With Abu Ghazalah

NC221132 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1115 GMT 22 Feb 87

[Text] Cairo, 22 Feb (MENA) — Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, met today with Salim Ahmad Salim, Tanzanian deputy prime minister and minister of defense and national service, who is visiting Egypt at the invitation of the Foreign Ministry.

During the meeting, Abu Ghazalah and Salim discussed bilateral cooperation, particularly in the military field.

Terms Talks 'Extremely Fruitful'

NC221535 Cairo MENA in English 1440 GMT 22 Feb 87

[Text] Cairo, Feb 22 (MENA) — Tanzanian Deputy Premier and Defence Minister Salim Ahmad Salim described his talks with Egyptian Deputy Premier and Defence Minister Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah as extremely fruitful in the joint military cooperation field.

In a statement following a meeting with Abu Ghazalah, the Tanzanian official said they discussed means of fostering bilateral relations as well as relations with African states.

Meanwhile, the Tanzanian official visited today the Military Academy.

Concludes Visit 23 Feb

NC230638 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0611 GMT 23 Feb 87

[Text] Cairo, 23 Feb (MENA) — Salim Ahmed Salim, Tanzanian deputy prime minister and minister of defense and national service, left Cairo this morning after a visit lasting several days, during which he delivered a message to President Husni Mubarak from Tanzanian President Ali Hassan Mwinya.

The Tanzanian minister also held talks with Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production. The discussions dealt with promoting military cooperation and strengthening ties between the two countries in the economic, political, and technical spheres.

Additional Reports on Fighting in Gulf War

Spokesman Denies 2 Planes Downed

JN241234 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1210 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Feb (INA) — An Iraqi military spokesman has denied Iranian claims of downing two Iraqi planes over the Arab Gulf waters this morning.

The military spokesman told INA a short while ago that the Iraqi planes, which carried out raids on Iranian military concentrations today, returned safely to base.

Communique No 2,583

JN241744 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Communqiue No 2,583 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 24 February 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Iraq's victorious forces have continued the Great Harvest operations against the Khomeyniite remnants, inflicting daily new losses on the scoundrels and on the evil tools they are preparing for an aggression against this great country. The following is a roundup of activities for last night and today:

1. Our victorious forces of the heroic III Army Corps continued to direct artillery barrages at the enemy in cooperation with our artillery of the heroic VII Army Corps and with effective aerial support from our heroic Air Force and the daring Army aircraft.

Many enemy groups attempted to approach our forward positions last night and today. The majority of these groups was annihilated and the rest of them fled. Iraq's brave soldiers in all units gave splendid examples of bravery in confronting and defeating the enemies.

2. Our gigantic Air Force continued its devastating raids today on the Khomeyniite soundrels' heads in the operational areas. Our brave hawks inflicted heavy losses in personnel, equipment, and weapons on the aggressors in 104 combat missions. All brave hawks returned with their aircraft safely to base in God's care.

3. To inflict more losses on our ignorant, rancorous enemy and to destroy its oil resources which it is exploiting for its evil aims, our brave naval units dealt a violent, destructive blow to the Nowruz oil field at 1915 [1615 GMT] yesterday. They accurately hit their targets and set them on fire to further destroy them. The sea lions then returned safely to base, praise be to God. God bless our heroic Navy men.

4. The brave knights today poured their lava of bombs on the enemy herds in the areas of operation, killing and wounding many of them and destroying a number of enemy vehicles, weapons, and equipment through 60 combat sorties, after which they returned with their aircraft safely to base in God's care and protection.

5. With high morale and efficiency, our victorious forces in the VII Army Corps sector continued to direct violent artillery, tank, and mortar fire at enemy positions, achieving the following:

The killing of 12 personnel, wounding others, and the destruction of 10 ammunition dumps, 3 vehicles, and 7 emplacements.

6. The criminal Khomeyniite clique shelled residential areas in the brave city of Basra with long-range artillery. As a result, a number of civilian properties were damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 24 February 1987

Control of Sector Affirmed

JN241854 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1815 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Basra, 24 Feb (INA) — A high-ranking Iraqi military official has affirmed the Iraqi forces' control over the military situation in the III Army Corps sector. In a statement to an INA team on the front, 'Abd al-Jabbar Muhsin, chief of the Political Guidance Department of the Iraqi Defense Ministry, said that all Iranian attempts to intercept the Iraqi forces' ramparts in the Jasim River area south of Al-Asmak Lake were destroyed by the violent fire of the III Army Corps forces. He added that the Iranian forces sustained more losses in personnel in these interceptions without achieving any objective.

The chief of the Political Guidance Department stressed that the Iraqi forces enjoy overwhelming superiority over the Iranians in terms of weapons, number of men, intensity of fire, and aerial domination. He described the Iraqi Forces' morale as high in defeating the aggression and achieving a decisive victory over the Zionist Iranian enemy.

The Iraqi official affirmed that time is in Iraq's favor, that the dangers threatening our territory and country no longer exist, and that the Iranian regime will in the end admit its defeat and failure to achieve its evil objectives and plans.

'Abd al-Jabbar Muhsin said: If the Iranian rulers have any sense, they will spare the blood of their peoples. They should realize in advance that their evil aims will never be accomplished because they cannot confront a people united in thinking and conscience and rallying around President Saddam Husayn's honest and wise leadership.

Muhsin announced that the Iranian rulers continued the artillery shelling of the city of Basra and its residential areas for the 2d consecutive day. He said this means the Iranians are insisting on the aggression and a violation of Iraq's conditions for stopping the bombing of Iranian cities.

Message Sent to UN on Iranian Shelling of Cities

JN241942 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] In a message to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, which was also distributed to the Security Council members today, Iraq affirmed that the Iranian regime has continued to shell Iraqi residential areas. The message, which 'Ismat Kttani, Iraq's permanent UN representative, handed to Perez de Cuellar, says the Iranian artillery shelling on 19 and 20 February resulted in the martyrdom of three civilians, the wounding of others, and the destruction of some civilian property. The message adds that Iranian long-range artillery shelled the cities of Basra, Shahrazur, and Halabjah on 19 February. As a result, three civilians, including two children, were martyred and eight others were wounded. The message adds that on the following day the Iranian regime again shelled the cities of Basra and Sayyid Sadiq with long-range artillery. As a result, three civilians, including one woman and a child, were wounded.

AL-QADISIYAH Hits Syrian Intervention in Beirut

JN241224 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0815 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Feb (INA) — An Iraqi newspaper has asked Arab rulers to display a brave and responsible collective Arab stand that goes beyond fear, apprehension, and warning statements, to put an end to the Syrian regime's moves and to thwart its suspect policy toward the Palestinian revolution, Iraq, Lebanon, and all fateful pan-Arab issues.

In a commentary published today, *Al-Qadisiyah*, organ of the Iraqi Defense Ministry, said the Syrian regime has carried out the slogan of divide and rule in its ugliest form and that it has adopted it comprehensively in its policy toward the forces of the Arab revolutionary movement in a bid to instigate one party against another in accordance with the scheme it is trying to implement in the Arab arena.

The paper added that such a regime can never have any sincere intentions toward resolving any Arab issue. The paper said that since the beginning of that regime's involvement in the Lebanese arena in 1976, Lebanon has been the scene of chaos and infighting. Since that time, that regime's slogans have been based on deception and crooked methods to end the Palestinian revolution's military option with the aim of influencing its political stands and those of its legitimate representative, the PLO.

The paper pointed out that the Syrian regime is now pushing new units into Lebanon using the old pretext and feeble justification which it calls working to restore peace and order, thinking that such a thing can deceive anybody. It also referred to the rejecton by the Syrian regime's representative during the preparatory emergency meetings of the Arab foreign ministers' representatives which were held in December, of placing the issue of the massacres to which the Palestinian people in Lebanon are being subjected, on the agenda of the foreign ministers' meetings as if the Syrian regime were a trustee over the Lebanese and Palestinians questions. The paper emphasized that Hafiz al-Asad and his henchmen have forgotten that the Arab masses, who are closely following their dangerous policy in the Arab arena in Lebanon, their stand toward the Iranian war against Iraq, and their positions on all current Arab issues, can never be deluded regarding the real objectives of this intervention.

Kurds Kidnap German, Turkish Employees

LD201536 Hamburg DPA in German 1354 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Text] Bonn, (DPA) — Kurdish resistance fighters have abducted a German worker from a Krupp building site in northeast Iraq and have demanded that a German diplomat travel to the "liberated Kurdish territory." The Foreign Ministry also said today that the worker was taken from his house in a secure building site camp, which is near the town of al-Sulaymaniyah, early on 14 February.

The kidnappers, who were armed with submachine guns and clad in Kurdish national dress, left the wife and children of the Krupp employee unharmed, but also forced a Turkish employee to go with them. The Foreign Ministry said it was trying to secure the release of the German.

The kidnapping became public when the kidnappers contacted a Western news agency in Baghdad. They said they were members of the anti-Iraq Patriotic Union of Kurdestan. Turkey is obviously being asked to release a number of Kurdish prisoners.

Al-Masri Lauds EEC on Support for Conference

JN241916 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri returned to Amman from Brussels this evening after holding talks with a number of EEC foreign ministers who held a meeting yesterday to discuss the Middle East at the conclusion of which they issued a statement supporting an international conference for peace in the Middle East. Jordanian diplomacy played a distinguished and important role in the issuance of the EEC resolution approving the conference to be held under UN auspices.

The foreign minister spoke to our correspondent Qasim al-Zu'bi and said:

[Begin Al-Masri recording] Jordanian efforts have been continuous lately to attain support for an international conference to be held under UN auspices. Several resolutions have been issued recently in this context. Among them are the Zimbabwe nonaligned summit resolution, a resolution by the UN General Assembly during its recent session, and the resolution of the Fifth ICO Summit held in Kuwait.

The European group's decision to hold a foreign ministers meeting in Brussels to discuss the Middle East issue was an important opportunity for us to seek the support of that important group for the international conference, promote its stand on the Middle East, and confirm the Venice Declaration. I went to Brussels for this purpose and met with a number of EEC foreign ministers and some officials and presented the Jordanian view.

Praise be to God, our efforts have succeeded as the ministers approved of the interational conference under UN aegis and stressed the Venice Declaration. We are happy with this important decision. Most countries, and probably all of them, support an international conference under UN aegis. We are also happy that one of the main pillars of Jordan's foreign policy calls for holding this conference, given that it is the best solution for a just, comprehensive settlement of the Palestine question. Thus, the European group, the closest friend of the United States and Israel, now supports this conference. [end recording]

Prince Hasan Receives Egyptian Envoy, Message

JN211927 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Feb 87

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, received Dr Usamah al-Baz, director of President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's office for political affairs, at the Royal Hashemite Court this evening. Al-Baz conveyed to his highness a verbal message from His Excellency Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak to His Majesty King Husayn. The message deals with the strong relations between the two fraternal countries and the current situation in the Arab and international arenas. Dr al-Baz' mission to Jordan comes within the framework of coordination and consultations between Jordan and the Arab Republic of Egypt on the joint Arab stand and challenges facing the Arab nation.

Royal Hashemite Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim and Egyptian Ambassador in Amman Ihab Wahbah attended the meeting.

Information Minister Returns From Iraqi Visit

JN221534 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 22 Feb 87

[Text] Amman, 22 Feb [PETRA] — Information Minister Muhammad al-Khatib and his delegation have returned to Amman following a 3-day visit to Iraq in response to an invitation from that country's minister of culture and information, Latif Nusayyif Jasim. The delegation comprised Haydar Muhammad, director general of the Department of Culture and Arts; 'Ali al-Safadi, director general of JNA; and 'Isam 'Aridah, Radio Jordan director.

CSSR Trade Official Signs Protocol, Ends Visit

JN210844 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Feb 87 p 3

[Excerpt] Amman (J.T.) — Mr. Jan Garcar, assistant to the Czechoslovak minister of foreign trade, left Amman on Friday at the end of a four-day visit to Jordan during which he held talks with Jordanian ministers and other officials and signed a protocol designed to promote economic and trade links between Jordan and Czechoslovakia.

The protocol, signed by Mr. Garcar and Under Secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Trade Muhammad Al-Saqqaf came at the end of talks held by the joint Jordanian-Czechoslovak committee which reviewed trade ties and economic cooperation between the two countries.

Under the terms of the protocol, Czechoslovakia will purchase 130,000 tonnes of Jordanian phosphate in the first half of 1987 and will make an assessment of its needs for the second half of the year.

The protocol provides for Czechoslovakia to take necessary steps for adjusting its balance of trade with Jordan, now in Czechoslovakia's favour, and will make arrangements for purchasing Jordanian agricultural products in addition to phosphate and other commodities, the Jordan News Agency, PETRA, reported.

The agency said that the two sides agreed on the need to exchange visits by businessmen from the two countries and agreed in principle to establish trade centres in Prague and Amman. Jordan also invited Czechoslovakia to contribute towards the implementation of the 1986-1990 five-year plan. [passage omitted]

King Husayn, Queen Nur Leave for Austria

JN211245 Amman Domestic Service in English
1200 GMT 21 Feb 87

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur left Amman today for Vienna on a visit to Austria that will last several days. During the visit, his majesty the king will meet with Austrian President Dr Kurt Waldheim and the Austrian Chancellor Mr Vranitzky.

His majesty was seen off at the airport by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan; the prime minister; the speakers of both houses of Parliament; the chief of the Royal Court; the Royal Court minister; the commander in chief of the Armed Forces; cabinet members; and top officials.

Earlier in the day, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan was sworn in as regent before his majesty during his majesty's absence abroad.

More Reportage on West Beirut Security Situation

Syrians Continue Deployment

NC241829 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Sources from the Syrian force have stated that a number of party offices in West Beirut were closed today. Other security sources have reported that the PSP evacuated the Jall al-Bahr Barracks, which was later taken over by the Syrian force. They added that Hizballah also evacuated its main headquarters in Al-Bastah. The headquarters was set on fire by burning car tires and incendiary material after the gunmen had withdrawn. [passage omitted]

A Syrian military source has stated that the Syrian force took up positions in a number of areas, particularly in Al-Janah, Summerland, the Sports Stadium, the High Technical School, Tallat al-Awza'i, Al-Maramil, the Airport Bridge, the eastern side of the airport, Tallat Cocodi, and the Mountain-'Alayh Road. [passage omitted]

It has been learned from internal security force sources that the security forces have established over 20 fixed positions in West Beirut. The Syrian forces have set up a roadblock near the Lebanese Red Cross Headquarters on Spiro Street. Meanwhile, units of the Lebanese Army, internal security forces, and Syrian force have deployed on the Burj al-Murr Road. [passage omitted]

Syrian soldiers stationed themselves in the Headquarters of the Communist Party and Amal Movement on 'Afif al-Tibi Street in Al-Tariq al-Jadidah at noon today. Other soldiers were deployed farther along on other parts of the street. Syrian forces also assembled in the municipal sports field and established a fixed roadblock at the Beirut Arab University. They deployed at the Cola traffic ricle and established two fixed roadblocks, one near the Kuwaiti Embassy and another near the Cola factory. [passage omitted]

The NNA correspondent has reported from 'Alayh that a Syrian military force deployed on the Beirut-al-Biqa' Road at 1000 today. He said this force established checkpoints and fixed roadblocks in Khaldah, Al-Karamah Road, Qabr Shmun, 'Alayh, and Bhamdun. Our correspondent noted this was preceded by the evacuation of the PSP security force from the road.

Meanwhile, the Syrian force established checkpoints on the entrance to the airport, the Al-Maramil crossroads, and under the airport bridge. A Syrian military source said these checkpoints are part of ensuring Beirut International Airport's protection.

Hizballah Says Syrians Kill 20

NC242111 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2045 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Hizballah sources announced a short while ago that the Syrian occupation army, after entering the Fathallah Barracks in Al-Bastah this evening, stormed houses and opened fire indiscriminately, killing 20 people.

A clash took place between the Syrian occupation forces and Hizballah in Al-Bastah al-Fawqa this evening, which resulted in some casualties.

It was reported a short time ago that strong tension exists between the Syrian occupation forces and Hizballah in the areas of Cocodi and Al-Raml al-'Ali where the forces of the two sides have been alerted.

We have just been informed that Hizballah has declared a general alert and its gunmen have intensively deployed in the areas of 'Ayn al-Dulb and Burj al-Barajinah.

Syrian Source on Killings

NC242144 Paris AFP in English 2133 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Beirut, Feb 24 (AFP) — Syrian forces in Beirut killed 15 guerrillas of the pro-Iranian Hizballah fundamentalist group in a clash here Tuesday night, a Syrian security source said.

Shortly after the announcement, a spokesman for an Islamic rescue group said the bodies of 23 Hizballah guerrillas were dumped at the doorstep of a private hospital at the south portal of Beirut.

It was not immediately clear, however, whether the two statements referred to the same deaths.

The rescue group spokesman said the Lebanese Red Cross had been called and had transported the 23 corpses in ambulances to the south Beirut suburb.

The Syrian security source said the 15 Hizballah were killed in a clash at Al-Bastah, in West Beirut, near the Hizballah Fathallah military barracks which Syrian troops took earlier in the evening.

He said the fighting broke out when a Syrian patrol returned fire in the Al-Bastah area.

Some 7,000 Syrian troops were deployed in Beirut last weekend, on the demand of a Lebanese ministerial contingent, to end bloody fighting among warring Lebanese militia, of which Hizballah is one.

Hizballah, Kan'an Issue Statements

NC250545 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] A Syrian security source told AFP just before midnight that 15 Hizballah members were killed or injured during a clash in the Al-Bastah area near the Fathallah Barracks, which the Syrian forces took over yesterday evening.

Hizballah issued a statement early this morning in which it elaborated on the incident. It said: We will prove that we are above all wounds, however deep. The statement called on citizens to ignore rumors and emotions, urging them to participate in the funerals of the martyrs at noon today at the Al-Imam al-Rida

Mosque in Bi‘r al-‘Abd. The statement noted that the number of dead ranges from 20 to 30 and that the party had received the bodies of 18 martyrs and a number of injured survivors.

Brigadier General Ghazi Kan‘an, chief of the security and surveillance department of the Syrian forces, issued the following statement at midnight:

The Syrian Arab forces which entered Beirut in response to appeals from Beirut's leaders, parties, and people, came to implement a national task that is indivisible from its pan-Arab role in the confrontation of the Arab nation's enemies. These forces began their mission to extinguish the conflagration that threatened not only Beirut but the very values for which the patriots and faithful strugglers, who believe in God, land, and nation, believed in and struggled for.

It was natural that we should expect some mishaps and attempts to foil our mission and continued bloodshed, despite the fact that this mission offered an opportunity to all those who wish to safeguard Beirut and its population to withdraw their weapons from the streets and assist us in this task that concerns everyone. Therefore, our forces, which have been entrusted with restoring security and stability to Beirut, are performing their tasks with full responsibility. These forces have accomplished major tasks in the past 48 hours, confronting many gunmen and criminals. Our forces will continue to fulfill their role, based on our declaration at the start: Every gunman is an enemy of the city, and we will not discriminate between a gunman from this organization or anyone else. They are all the same to us. We are the legal authority. We have repeatedly warned gunmen to withdraw and leave their weapons and positions while our forces were being deployed. We now repeat this warning out of our concern to end bloodshed and to carry out our tasks to preserve Beirut's general security and to protect its citizens.

Army Prepares To Deploy

NC250849 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] According to security sources, Army units began to assemble at the prescribed centers at 0830 this morning, in preparation for their deployment on the combat lines and coastal road. The deployment process will be completed by 1600.

The security sources explained that the forces to be deployed comprise the 63d Battalion, a company of the 6th Brigade, and two companies of the 12th Brigade. These forces will be withdrawn from positions in the areas of the AUB, Arab University, Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Information, International Hotel, and the 107th Paratroopers Battalion Headquarters in Verdun.

The first stage of the deployment will take place between Al-Hajj Dawud coffee shop and Ra‘s al-Nab‘. Gunmen will be withdrawn in the next few hours to preclude any violations that could affect the West Beirut security plan.

Amal, PSP Asked for Criminals

NC251139 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1100 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] According to reports from West Beirut, as part of the effort to consolidate security, Major General ‘Ali Duba, a senior Syrian official, has asked Ministers Walid Junblatt and Nabih Birri to hand over to Syrian officers a number of persons accused of crimes and obscene acts.

According to press reports, Maj Gen Duba gave a 4-page list of wanted PSP men to Minister Junblatt, and a 2-page list to Minister Birri. He stressed that these men must be handed over by a deadline expiring tomorrow, Sunday [as heard].

Palestinian Bodies Found

NC241232 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Excerpts] In their reports from West Beirut, Western correspondents have said the bodies of five Palestinians have been found in Al-Rawshah. The bodies were riddled with bullets, evidence that their deaths were an act of revenge. The correspondents add that the bodies were found in the wake of raids and search operations carried out by Syrian forces in West Beirut last night. The raids centered on buildings where dozens of pro-Yasir ‘Arafat Palestinians had sought shelter after fleeing the camps besieged by the Amal Movement. [passage omitted]

In Tyre, gunmen have killed Ahmad ‘Ali Salih, the brother of Amal Political Bureau member ‘Abd al-Majid Salih.

In the meantime, Hizballah has expressed its refusal to hand over its offices to the Syrian occupation forces by burning down its center in Al-Bastah. This center figured in clashes with a Syrian patrol some time ago when patrol vehicles were burned and personnel detained. Hizballah's action in Al-Bastah is a clear message to the Syrians that their entry into the southern suburb is rejected. The PSP barracks in Jall al-Bahar are now under the control of the Syrian forces.

13 Bodies Found in W. Beirut

NC241233 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] According to security reports, a number of bodies have been found in several parts of Beirut. One body was found near the Australian Embassy, two near the Al-Rafidayn Bank, five near Jall al-Bahr, one near the fairground, and one near the Intercontinental Hotel. The body of Khalid Samuel Tannus was found near Dubaybu restaurant at 0730 today. The bullet-riddled body of Husayn ‘Awdah was discovered under Salim Salam Bridge this morning, and an unidentified body was taken to the American University Hospital at noon today.

Syrians Kill 3 Gunmen

NC241942 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Members of a Syrian forces patrol shot and killed three gunmen who refused to heed the order to halt in the Al-Rawshah area today.

Official, Group Reaction to Syrian Deployment

Karami on Deployment

NC241930 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Statement by Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami, followed by remarks in response to question by unidentified correspondent after chairing a meeting of the General Committee on 24 February — recorded]

[Text] The General Committee met and followed up the implementation of the security plan, which came in response to the people's wishes for their salvation from the nightmare that had been imposed on them. The [Syrian forces'] deployment has been carried out according to plan and the Syrian forces, together with the legitimate forces, have entered Al-Bastah and its neighborhoods. We are following the issue of the contact lines and are preparing everything that is required for the [Lebanese] Army to take over all these lines. We believe the Army's deployment along these lines will take place in the next 48 hours, so West Beirut will be made secure against anything that could cause gaps in the capital's security plan.

On this occasion I would like to ask the owners of the apartments that had been turned into offices to apply to take over their apartments, so that they may be handed over to them as soon as possible. I would also like to declare that the previous firearms licenses have been annulled. With regard to the camps, I received some of their representatives this morning. I would like to ask the camps to adhere to the cease-fire and to abide by the agreements that have been concluded between them and Syria, as well as those against whom they are fighting. These agreements must be honored and the siege on the camps must be lifted so that matters may revert to the way we want them — to peace, amity, and cooperation — so that all of us may then turn to remedying our situation and to directing all our efforts toward construction, good, and peace.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct] Your excellency said today that [words indistinct] will return very soon. Is this report true?

[Karami] I still hold to my promise to my brothers, the people of Ra's al-Nab', that when the contact line from the sea up to the [southern] suburb is taken over [by the Lebanese Army] in the next 48 hours, as I have declared, there will be nothing to prevent the people of Ra's al-Nab' from returning to their area.

Interior Minister 'Grateful'

JN241459 Doha QNA in Arabic 1235 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Beirut, 24 Feb (QNA) — Lebanon's Interior Minister 'Abdallah al-Rasi says the new security plan for West Beirut calls for the evacuation of all party gunmen and military factions along with their weapons. Given their indiscipline and the power they have been wielding, it will not be easy to get the gunmen to vacate their positions, Al-Rasi told the Beirut QNA correspondent.

Al-Rasi said West Beirut has gone through incredibly difficult times and seen abominably ferocious battles in which plunder and murder were the order of the day. We appealed to leaders of the warring factions to cease hostilities and government officials, especially myself as interior minister, were powerless to end the fighting and despite help from Syrian observers, an undermanned and underequipped regular Lebanese security force could not do the job, the interior minister said. We appealed to Syrian President Hafiz al-asad to send an additonal military force to West Beirut so we could end the fighting. He obliged and we are grateful, Al-Rasi added. He was optimistic the Syrian forces would complete their deployment in West Beirut within the next few days.

Asked about the position of Christian leaders in East Beriut on the Syrian forces' entry into West Beirut, and protests that the decision to call in the Syrians was taken unilaterally, Al-Rasi said the move falls within his constitutional prerogative. The Constitution and laws are there to protect the citizens, their lives, properties, and freedom, he asserted.

The Lebanese interior minister stressed that Beirut International Airport and its perimeters and access routes are now 100 percent safe. There is no longer the need for the airport to remain closed, he said. The minister urged all diplomatic missions to reopen in West Beirut, pointing out that they will do so once they see the situation for themselves.

On the prospects for a cabinet or general committee meeting, Al-Rasi hoped such a meeting would be held, but said this was not possible with the absence of Ministers Birri and Junblatt from the capital. The minister predicted that with enough goodwill on all sides, the new security plan for West Beirut could become the springboard for an overall solution to the Lebanese crisis, providing for reorganizing state institutions and rebuilding the country's future on principles of justice and equality among all Lebanese. The state would then be in a position to reassert its authority over all Lebanese territory, regain control of government facilities, and get rid of all illegal institutions according to the minister, adding the first step on that road would be ridding greater Beirut of all illegal military groups, as the well-being of Lebanon depends on the well-being of the capital.

Ja'ja' Reiterates Condemnation

NC241847 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' has again condemned the Syrian forces' deployment in West Beirut. In a news conference with foreign correspondents today, Ja'ja' said: We will not surrender; the Syrians' deployment might restore calm in West Beirut for a month or so, but the political disputes will continue and will eventually lead to disputes among the military or the security departments.

Ja'ja' pointed out that there are no threats to the eastern area for the time being, but added that events develop quickly in Lebanon. According to Ja'ja', the Syrians will not be able to release the foreign hostages in Lebanon, who are mainly held by Hizballah, and this will inevitably cause tension between Damascus and Tehran. He added that the Syrian Army's entry into West Beirut is a real partition of Lebanon, and stressed his determination not to reopen Beirut airport until permission is granted for the Halat airport to begin operations.

Ja'ja' appealed to all countries to help confront the Syrian intervention, noting he is ready to ally with the Druze, the Sunnis, and some Shi'ites to confront the Syrian presence. However, Ja'ja' ruled out the possibility of any alliance with the PLO or Hizballah fundamentalists. He expressed the belief that the Syrian forces will not disarm the Palestinian camps. He added: They will try to remove the influence of the 'Arafat loyalists and will use the Palestinians and pro-Palestinians to carry out operations against Israel.

Syrian Presence Termed 'Illegitimate'

NC242157 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2045 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] The Lebanese Forces have declared that all the Lebanese free [eastern] areas are open to the citizens who are opposed to the [Syrian] occupation. These free areas represent the bastions of honest resistance and the point of departure for the liberation of all of Lebanon and its people.

The Lebanese Forces stressed that the current situation in West Beirut requires a radical solution that can only be brought about through the legitimate Lebanese Government using its executive tools. This is particularly true because it has been proven to all the Lebanese that the problem in Lebanon lies in the presence of the foreign armies and powers on its soil. This problem will only be solved if all these armies and forces leave the country.

In its weekly meeting today under the chairmanship of Dr Samir Ja'ja', the Lebanese Forces deemed the Syrian military deployment in West Beirut illegitimate and incompatible with all Lebanese constitutional norms, particularly because it was made without the president's knowledge and approval.

Sham'un Raps Shultz Remarks

NC251001 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Upon emerging from a Lebanese Front meeting, former President Camille Sham'un criticized U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' comments on the Syrian entry into West Beirut. He said the blow to the head Shultz received from the Irangate scandal has caused him to make contradictory statements that do not correspond to reality.

Communist Party Member Assassinated in Sidon

NC241503 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] The assassination campaign against the Communists and their allies is continuing in southern Lebanon. The latest victim is Dr Labib 'Abd al-Samad, director of the Al-Najdah al-Sha'biyah Hospital in Sidon. He was assassinated in front of Shu'ayb Hospital on Ma'ruf Sa'd Boulevard in Sidon at 1530 today.

Paris Paper Interviews Al-Jumayyil on Situation

PM241206 Paris LE FIGARO in French 21-22 Feb 87 p 2

[Interview with Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil by Jacques Jacquet-Francillon in Paris — date not given]

[Text] [Jacquet-Francillon] You have been president of Lebanon for more than 4 years now. Despite the tragic events in your country, particularly recently, you still officially represent the legal Lebanese Government; you embody Lebanese legitimacy. It is therefore to you alone that the crucial question raised by the situation should be put: Does Lebanon still exist? What is Lebanon now?

[Al-Jumayyil] Lebanon is a soul. Lebanon is real; Lebanon is a people who are alive, struggling and resisting; a people with determination. That is Lebanon.

Lebanon still has a parliament that meets and that brings together all the components of Lebanese politics; it is a parliament that meets under one roof to legislate, make decisions, lay down guidelines, and at times even impose some decisions on the president — decisions with which he disagrees.

Lebanon still has a government that continues to meet in its way, which makes decisions by a fairly original procedure, but which makes decisions and runs state affairs.

Lebanon has a president who is still as determined and committed as ever to peace, and to the country's sovereignty and independence.

Lebanon still has these three democratic institutions which are trying to steer the country out of chaos, and to oppose the dismantling of the country which others want.

Remember that the Palestinians tried to turn it into an alternative homeland in 1975. Later, others tried to steer the country toward options which did not truly serve Lebanon's interests. And there is now this fundamentalist faction that has come from abroad and that is destroying everything in its path.

A Brotherhood of Evil Forces [subhead]

[Jacquet-Francillon] Whatever their sentimental attachment to your country, the French are asking questions. They would like to know whom you regard as the main enemy of the Lebanon you represent. We could mention at random: Syria, Iran which controls the Hizballah, the Palestinians, who recently returned in force to your country, the Amal Shi'ite militia, the Druze militia, the Lebanese Communists — there are many real or potential enemies. How do you classify these real or potential enemies in descending order of the threat they pose to you?

In other words whom do you regard as enemy number one? [Al-Jumayyil] France has reason to be worried about Lebanon because if, God forbid, Lebanon were to be destroyed, France would lose part of itself. I fully understand France's apprehension. It continues to stand by us because the French leaders are aware of the Lebanese situation.

You ask me to draw up a list. Listen... Let us admit that there is a brotherhood of evil forces, I do not know.... Yes, a brotherhood of evil forces!

Throughout Lebanon's history I believe that many forces in turn have posed a real threat to our country. It is impossible to classify them. We must locate ourselves in space and time. The situation can change now, before I can even give you an answer. I am here, but things can change; we do not know which way to turn.

It is precisely because there is this confusion — reflected in your question — about all those who undermine Lebanese sovereignty and everything which threatens peace each day, that there are now some initial signs of a consensus; people are realizing that there is no salvation outside Lebanese law, a return to our sources, a return to the constitutional institutions.

[Jacquet-Francillon] Some people recently accused you of encouraging a Palestinian return to Lebanon who were still besieged in their camps by the Amal militia just 48 hours ago and threatened with extermination, by famine if by nothing else. Do you accept this accusation and, if so, what did you expect from the Palestinians?

[Al-Jumayyil] I have always had excellent relations with the Palestinians and I have no complexes about my relations with them. My position on this subject is clear and I deal with the Palestinian problem with my country's interests at heart.

[Jacquet-Francillon] The Shi'ite fundamentalist group Hizballah now has a presence virtually throughout Lebanon. Who is arming it? Who controls this movement? Do the Iranians have direct control over it?

[Al-Jumayyil] Fundamentalism exists in the Al-Biqa', in Beirut, and throughout the country. It is no secret that the several thousand Revolution Guards who move around freely and who freely cross the border between Syria and Lebanon are Iranian Revolution Guards controlled by Iran. This is a fact and they do not conceal it. The Iranian mullahs are in the country; they negotiated the solution to a conflict between the Palestinians and Shi'ites, and it is no secret to anybody that they are there as Iranians.

[Jacquet-Francillon] Does this mean they are completely obedient to the Tehran Government.

[Al-Jumayyil] You said it. The Revolution Guards come under some official Iranian body....

[Jacquet-Francillon] Are you satisfied with the role that UNIFIL is now playing and do you believe France is carrying out its duties in this UN Interim Force in Lebanon in a satisfactory way?

[Al-Jumayyil] We are all frustrated by the fact that UNIFIL is not fully accomplishing the mission for which it was formed. The French, the other UNIFIL soldiers, and we are naturally dissatisfied with the way things are going. The situation is deteriorating at present but UNIFIL is being kept in reserve pending a positive development in the situation that would enable it to fulfill the mission entrusted to it by UN Resolution 425.

France has always stood by us and despite the fact that it has suffered greatly from these unjust attacks which have, unfortunately, cost the French soldiers dear, France is still part of UNIFIL. This commitment is part of France's national commitment to Lebanon.

[Jacquet-Francillon] To the world's astonishment, Lebanon managed to survive a relentless civil war for more than 10 years without its economy seemingly affected. People even spoke of a "Lebanese miracle." Everything appears to have been collapsing for several months now. How do you explain this recent collapse?

[Al-Jumayyil] First, I would like to express serious reservations about the wording of your question. We are well aware that other people are waging war on our territory; it is not a civil war. Although there are some disagreements among the various components of Lebanese society, they do not justify this wave of disasters. So, we must make it clear that this is not a civil war.

[Jacquet-Francillon] You have made that clear....

[Al-Jumayyil] Aside from that, as far as the Lebanese economy is concerned, it is obviously true that we lived on our reserves. The Middle East region was stable. The oil price, and the petrodollar were steady and Lebanon enjoyed stability in many spheres, and to some degree the Lebanese reserves balanced the relative economic stability in the Gulf region and the Middle East in general.

It was the petrodollar crisis that upset the economic structures, and, obviously, Lebanon — the most fragile member of this community — paid too high a price.

[Jacquet-Francillon] Sir, are you satisfied with the welcome you have been accorded by the French Government? What in particular do you expect France to do in the future in the military, economic, and cultural spheres?

[Al-Jumayyil] I am more than satisfied with the welcome I have received from the French Government and I was very happy to meet with President Mitterrand and Mr Chirac. Both were very understanding. We have just looked at the most negative aspects of the situation; let us look at the positive aspects....

It is an honor for us to see that Lebanon is a subject on which there is cohesion in French national policy. The Lebanese question is perhaps one of the few subjects on which France is united. This truly encourages us in our policy and makes us determined to forge ahead.

Relations between Lebanon and France are everyday economic and military relations. Many of our officers are trained in French military schools. Our students are to be found in all French universities. French aid workers are still in Lebanon; part of the Lebanese infrastructure is run by French aid workers.

Hostages: Not Making Matters Worse [subhead]

[Jacquet-Francillon] Unfortunately, Lebanon is now synonymous in the West with the unacceptable and hateful word "hostage."

Sir, I have no doubt that you personally condemn all hostage-taking. We know that many Lebanese are taken hostage, too!

Can I ask you what you have been able to do so far to help secure the release of some foreign hostages, be they French or any other nationality? What do you intend to do in the immediate future to help those still being held?

[Al-Jumayyil] It would be really unjust for this country, which has always been the home of tolerance, peace, openness, and dialogue, to be thought of only in connection with kidnapping. We are well aware that all these hostages have been abducted for reasons which go far beyond the Lebanese borders and which have nothing to do with Lebanon. It is the destruction of national authority in some areas with either the participation or complicity of many countries, which has led to this situation. It is now vital to help the legal Lebanese authorities regain control over their territory to solve this problem.

With regard to our contribution, it would be better not to go into detail now about government action to speed up the release of these hostages. We must not make things worse and complicate the task of those dealing with this problem. At all events, you can be certain that the government is making great efforts to end this human tragedy — the daily tragedy of the hostages themselves or their families. There is not a single Lebanese who does not share the pain of the hostages and their relatives.

[Jacquet-Francillon] Do you believe U.S. military action in Lebanon is conceivable and, if so, what form could it take?

[Al-Jumayyil] I have always been opposed to the military option; it does not solve problems. What we want is for people to help the Lebanese Government regain control over its territory and in this way we will be able to deal with this problem in a much wiser and more effective way.

[Jacquet-Francillon] Do you approve of the French Government's efforts to try and normalize its relations with the ayatollah's regime in Tehran?

[Al-Jumayyil] As I have explained, Lebanon is the home of tolerance, openness, and dialogue. What we wish for ourselves, we wish everybody to have. The essential thing is to conduct this dialogue with dignity, respect for the structures and institutions, and not at the expense of other people's interests.

[Jacquet-Francillon] Sir, you were heard to say just recently: "We are at a crossroads.... Lebanon now has an opportunity." What exactly do you mean by that?

[Al-Jumayyil] I mean there is a growing awareness in Lebanon itself and a growing awareness outside Lebanon. This awareness is of the need for peace in Lebanon, and for rebuilding the Lebanese institutions that have been dismantled during 12 years of war. It is this growing awareness in various circles which is encouraging us to move forward, and I have noticed that there is a renewed interest in Lebanon in France and everywhere else and we have new opportunities.

[Jacquet-Francillon] Is there any other subject close to your heart?

[Al-Jumayyil] I could perhaps talk about the significance of my participation in the Kuwait Islamic conference.

[Jacquet-Francillon] Fine, let us deal with this question....

[Al-Jumayyil] The important thing about my participation in the Kuwait Islamic conference is that Lebanon was present as a full participant in that conference. It was represented by its president — a Christian president. The fact that a Christian president took part at that level in that conference, as Lebanon's representative, is a message that should be given its full significance.

Lebanon's very raison d'etre is to be a meeting point for civilizations and religions, a meeting point for cultures, so that one culture can emerge to become the synthesis of all these components of our national life.

This ought to be clearly understood. First, the Lebanese must understand that they have a role to play in Lebanon; that they have a mission. The Arab world ought to understand that Lebanon makes a contribution by its pluralism and its configuration. The Western world ought to understand the significance of this Lebanese presence at the Islamic conference, at such a level.

I believe Europe will soon be aware of the full significance of this Lebanese experiment and of the need to use it to solve problems that will soon arise in Western society.

You are well aware that entities are emerging in France and in the rest of Europe which are becoming increasingly important.

[Jacquet-Francillon] Are you referring to the communities of Maghreb origin?

[Al-Jumayyil] I am referring mainly to those communities, among others.... If the various confessions and religions in Lebanon fail to coexist in a harmonious way, what will you do here and what will other societies do when faced with this same phenomenon? This is why Lebanon is important. Lebanon, which is a unique human experiment, is a rampart against intolerance, fanaticism, and fundamentalism.

[Jacquet-Francillon] Would you be in favor of an international conference to try a solve the Palestinian problem — a conference in which the Soviet Union might participate?

[Al-Jumayyil] We are in favor of an international conference and I believe it would be the quickest way of achieving true peace in the Middle East.

[Jacquet-Francillon] What role could Lebanon play in the framework of such a conference?

[Al-Jumayyil] Lebanon has an essential role to play because any solution will have to include harmonious coexistence among the various components. What better example is there than Lebanon of this tolerance and harmony between components which seem to have nothing in common? Lebanon has been a meeting point for dozens if not hundreds of years.

Despite the 12 years of war, this coexistence has survived and is still to be found. The press in Europe usually reports the system's ups and downs and its present shortcomings. I believe this situation is merely a setback and that we will overcome it.

Further Reportage on Visit by Iranian Ministers

Al-Shar' Receives Velayati

JN241406 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati today. The meeting was attended by Diya'allah al-Fattal, assistant foreign minister; Hoseyn Lavasani, political director of the Iranian Foreign Ministry; and the Iranian ambassador in Damascus. Talks dealt with the current situation in the region and issues of common concern.

Al-Asad Meets Ministers

JN241417 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1402 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Damascus, 24 Feb (SANA) — At 1330 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Revolutionary Guard Corps Minister Mohsen Rafiqdust. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the Iranian ambassador in Damascus.

Talks revolved around the general situation and conditions in the region and issues of common concern.

Velayati Delivers Khamene'i Message

LD241908 Tehran IRNA in English 1845 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Damascus, Feb. 24, IRNA — Visiting Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati submitted Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad a message from his Iranian counterpart Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Khamene'i, here Tuesday.

Among topics brought up in the meeting were the latest developments in the region and issues of mutual interest.

Velayati also briefed the Syrian president on recent victories of Iranian Muslim combatants over Iraqi troops east of Basra.

Terms Talks 'Positive'

LD250827 Tehran IRNA in English 0824 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Damascus, Feb. 25, IRNA — Minister of Foreign Affairs 'Ali Akbar Velayati, and Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps Mohsen Rafiqdust concluded their one-day visit to Syria and left here for Tehran Tuesday afternoon.

Speaking at Damascus airport prior to departure, Velayati described his talks with Syrian officials including President Hafiz al-Asad as "positive and fruitful".

He said that during the talks bilateral relations, issues relevant to Lebanon, Palestine and Afghanistan as well as other international matters were discussed.

Referring to important political and military developments in the Iraqi imposed war, Velayati said that under present condition supporters of the Iraqi ruler had taken a new outlook in their policy. "With regards to political and military victories achieved by Iran and regional combatant forces, we are expecting important developments in this region," he added.

On recent events in Lebanon and his talks with Syrian officials in this connection, Velayati said that plots in Lebanon were hatched with the objective to deviate struggles of the Lebanese people from their true path.

He stressed that what was happening in Lebanon had important effects in the region, expressing hope that positive developments would be achieved in the future through coordination of struggles of combatant and Muslim forces.

Ministers Leave Damascus

JN241646 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Revolutionary Guard Corps Minister Mohsen Rafiqdust left Damascus this evening after a visit to the country. On hand at Damascus International Airport to see them off were Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the head of protocol at the Foreign Ministry, and the Iranian ambassador in Damascus and embassy staff.

Libya's Jallud Leaves Damascus 24 February

JN241959 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud, member of the 1 September Revolution Command Council of Libya, left Damascus this evening. On hand to see him off at Damascus International Airport were Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam; PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum; PNSF leaders; the charge d'affaires of the Libyan Brotherhood Office in Damascus; and office staff.

Further on Visit by Romanian Assembly Chairman

Economy Minister Receives Group

JN211721 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1540 GMT 21 Feb 87

[Text] Damascus, 21 Feb (SANA) — Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, economy and foreign trade minister, received Nicolae Giosan, chairman of the Romanian Grand National Assembly, and the accompanying delegation, today.

Dr al-'Imadi reviewed the state of the economy, developments of the economic and commercial base, the most important projects and achievements attained in Syria, and the responsibility shouldered by the Economy and Foreign Trade Ministry in building an impregnable economic base that helps bolster Syria's steadfastness and struggle against U.S. imperialism and Zionism.

Dr Giosan expressed his desire to develop Syrian-Romanian economic and trade relations, and stressed the need to bolster them on the basis of the two countries' common interests.

Meets With Al-Ahmar

JN221113 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1915 GMT 21 Feb 87

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, received the Romanian Grand National Assembly delegation under Speaker Nicolae Giason, which is visiting Syria at the invitation of the People's Assembly, this evening. The meeting was attended by Muhammad Khayr al-Halabi, member of the People's Assembly office; Comrade Shakir Su'ayyid, head of the Arab and External Relations Committee in the People's Assembly; and the Romanian ambassador in Damascus.

During the meeting, talks revolved around the relations of cooperation between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Romanian Communist Party and between Syria and Romania in the service of their peoples' interests. Comrade al-Ahmar talked about the most important developments in the Arab arena and the role of U.S. imperialism and Zionism in escalating the aggressive atmosphere through the schemes of hegemony and control, the escalating threats of the U.S. fleet in the Mediterranean, and the coordination of roles between the U.S. Administration and Israel in preparing for an aggression aimed against Syria and Lebanon and the Palestinian Arab people's cause.

The assistant secretary general affirmed that Syria under President struggler Hafiz al-Asad will press ahead with its principled course in confronting all the suspect campaigns and schemes, that it will bravely confront all attempts of pressure and aggression, and that Syria is a unified cohesive front behind President al-Asad's leadership.

Giosan affirmed the promotion of the relations of friendship and cooperation between Romanian and Syria. He said Romania is following up the current developments in the Arab region. The Romanian Grand National Assembly chairman praised Syria's courageous struggle under President Hafiz al-Asad for the sake of reconstruction and liberation. He stressed the importance of Syria's role in any just solution to the Middle East issue that would regain the occupied Arab territories and achieve the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate rights as well as their right to establish their independent state on the soil of their homeland.

Giosan expressed admiration for the Syrian Arab people's achievements on all political, economic, and social levels.

Concludes Visit

JN221513 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1215 GMT 22 Feb 87

[Text] Damascus — The Romanian Grand National Assembly delegation concluded a 4-day visit to Syria at the People's Assembly speaker's invitation this morning.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent prior to his departure, Giosan said he was pleased with the visit and described the Romanian parliamentary delegation's talks with the People's Assembly group headed by Mahmud al-Zu'bi as constructive and very useful. He said the viewpoints on the topcis discussed were identical. He added: Our talks in Damascus were aimed at strengthening ties between the two friendly countries on all levels, especially the parliamentary level.

The delegation held numerous meetings with senior officials in the Ba'th Party, the People's Assembly, and the government during which viewpoints were exchanged on the two countries' relations, and on the Middle East and international situations.

Giosan expressed his admiration of the signs of progress noticed by the delegation during its visit. This progress is represented by Syria's achievement in various fields despite the burdens it has assumed on the path of struggle under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad. Giosan concluded his statement by saying the visit to Syria was fruitful and successful, and that he considers it a major step on the path of strengthening and consolidating Syrian-Romanian ties.

Damascus Cites Statement on AKEL Party's Visit

JN211955 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1615 GMT 21 Feb 87

[Text] A joint statement was issued this evening at the conclusion of talks between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Cypriot Progressive Party of the Working People, AKEL, headed by Comrade Adhonis Khristofinis, member of the Political Bureau and head of the Cypriot Inernational Relations Bureau. The statement condemned the hostile, expansionist policy being practiced by U.S. imperialism and Israel as part of their strategic alliance aimed at imposing imperialist and Zionist hegemony over the region by resorting to threats and military force. This is being demonstrated by the United States and is represented by the large number of fleets and naval units opposite the Syrian and Lebanese coasts as a prelude to a treacherous aggression against Lebanon and Syria.

The two sides called for the immediate withdrawal of the U.S. fleet from the region. The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party submitted a detailed explanation of the true dimensions of the British Government's recent hostile policy against Syria in particular, and the Arab nation in general, based on false pretexts and as a result of which the British Government severed its diplomatic relations with Syria. The statement affirmed that this unjustified decision is in harmony with the U.S.-Israeli scheme aimed at undermining efforts to find a just, peaceful settlement in the region. It is also part of the Zionist-imperialist onslaught aimed at distorting Syria's reputation by claiming that it supports terrorism, although it was officially announced and the whole world knows that Syria opposes all forms of terrorism whether perpetrated by individuals or governments. It was also declared that Syria supports legitimate national resistance to guarantee the freedom and independence of nations.

The AKEL party delegation condemned this provocative imperialist move by the British Government. The delegation affirmed the party's solidarity with and support for Syria and for all of its measures in reply to this provocative move. The delegation also voiced the party's support for President Hafiz al-asad's important initiative calling for the formation of an international committee to define the meaning of terrorism and to differentiate between the institutionalized terrorism being practiced by the United States and the just struggle of nations to gain freedom and independence.

The two sides renewed their firm condemnation of the Camp David accords and the conspiracies aimed at peddling these accords through separate policies, deals, and partial solutions which U.S. imperialism is trying to impose on the Arab nation. In this regard, the two parties condemn former Zionist Prime Minister Peres' visit to Morocco and his talks with King Hassan II which they regard as an attempt to revive and spread the Camp David course, divide Arab ranks, and harm the Arab struggle. The two sides reaffirmed the two parties' determination to continue joint efforts to achieve a just, comprehensive solution on the basis of Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and the recognition of the Palestinian people's national, inalienable rights, including their rights to self-determination and their right to establish their independent state on their national soil in accordance with UN resolutions through an international conference under UN auspices to be attended by all the concerned sides and the permanent Security Council members.

Regarding the situation in Lebanon, the two sides reaffirmed their condemnation of the continuing Israeli occupation of parts of Lebanon and Israeli interference in its internal affairs. They agreed on the need to endeavor to achieve national accord in Lebanon and affirmed support for Lebanon's independence, sovereignty, and the unity of its territory. They also agreed on the need to end the camps war and subsequent tragedies of the Palestinians and Lebanese. They expressed an eagerness to reinforce the national Lebanese-Palestinian-Syrian cohesion against the Zionist enemy.

The AKEL Party delegation listened with great interest to discussions of Syria's efforts under the Ba'th Party and its secretary general, Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, to achieve national accord and reconciliation in Lebanon. The two sides condemned the Iraq-Iran war and voiced their deep concern over this continuing war and the subsequent drain of the two countries' human and material resources which only benefit imperialism and Zionism. The two sides stressed the need to put an immediate end to that war.

The AKEL Party delegation briefed the Ba'th Party delegation on the latest developments in the Cypriot problem, especially following the latest increase in the U.S. military presence on the island and the Cypriot people's protests and demonstrations calling for the withdrawal of foreign forces from the island and achieving a just solution to the Cypriot problem. The two delegations condemned the constant imperialist conspiracies aimed at partitioning the island and using it as a base for aggression in the eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East. The two sides affirmed their parties' support for the Soviet initiative to resolve the Cypriot problem on the basis of finding a just solution to it through an international conference to be convened under UN auspices. They also called for promoting and developing this initiative.

While studying the international situation, the two delegations voiced deep concern and condemnation of the U.S. imperialist policy aimed at causing tension in the world desptie peaceful Soviet initiatives and defying world public opinion by continuing nuclear tests and escalating the nuclear arms race and spreading it to outer space through the so-called Star Wars program threatening humanity and life on earth.

YSP Delegation Departs After 7-Day Visit

JN211625 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1515 GMT 21 Feb 87

[Text] The YSP delegation headed by Comrade Muhammad Sa'id 'Abdallah Muhsin, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee secretary, left Damascus today after concluding a 7-day visit to the country. During the visit, the delegation held party and political talks and met with a number of party and state officials in addition to popular organizations.

Prior to departure, Comrade Muhsin made a statement in which he stressed the PDRY's appreciation for the great achievements attained by the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party in all fields and for Syria's heroic stand against the imperialist and Zionist threats.

Local Administration Council Elections Begin

JN211828 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1615 GMT 21 Feb 87

[Text] Throughout the day, our masses in the country's governorates have been heading toward polling places in the cities, towns, and villages of the governorates to elect their representatives to the local administrative councils amid popular chants and cheers for the party, its Secretary General Comrade Struggler Hafiz al-Asad, and the Progressive National Front.

SANA correspondents in the governorate report that officials of the party, government, popular organizations, and the Progressive National Front participated with the citizens in casting their votes for the Progressive National Front list, thus exercising their national right to elect their representatives in the local administration.

SANA correspondents say the masses in the country's governorates have expressed their faith in the experiment of local administration whose foundations were laid down by the comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad and which is one of the achievements of the corrective movement.

Elections for the local administration councils in the governorates, cities, and towns began this morning. There are 15,436 candidates competing for 4,788 seats.

Peres Departs for Egypt, Comments on Conference

TA250919 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0900 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres left for Cairo this morning for a 2-day visit. Prior to his departure he told correspondents the problem is not relations between the Alignment and the Likud but the continuation of the peace process, and it is not his goal to bring about a government crisis.

Our correspondent Elihu Ben-On reports the vice prime minister inaugurated an alternative energy experimental site at Sede Boqer prior to his departure. He emphasized that in the absence of peace one should pursue the peace process, and if the process is not receptive to an international conference, the whole matter will be dropped and will disintegrate.

Arrives, Meets Al-Majid

TA251137 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1105 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, arrived in Cairo before noon today. He was greeted by 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister at the Al-Mazar military airfield. Al-Majid said the timing of the invitation stems from the results of the recent referendum held in Egypt. Mr Peres said he was looking forward to discussions to promote the peace process. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports from Cairo:

[Begin recording] [Ben-'Ami] Mr Peres does not foresee the solution of all the disputed issues regarding the international conference, but he foresees progress in the process as a result of the talks he will hold today with his counterpart, Dr 'Abd al-Majid, and with President Husni Mubarak tomorrow.

[Peres] First of all, the process itself should be brought to the point where solutions have to be achieved. After all, everyone agrees no conference — neither regional nor international — should be convoked before we reach a clear agreement on its procedures, the participants, and so on. We are talking about direct talks, which would open in an international forum. It is my understanding agreement on this issue is not divided along party lines. However, if it is, the parties will also have to draw the conclusions.

[Ben-'Ami] Still, do you foresee a joint communique or an understanding with President Mubarak emerging from this visit?

[Peres] We will see about that at the end. No, I do not foresee such a communique, but if such a proposal is put forth we will discuss it.

[Ben-'Ami] Do you expect a debate on the promotion of the peace process upon your return to Israel?

[Peres] I hope so.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Peres also pointed out he is representing the Israeli Government position and not just that of the Labor Party. In reply to a question, Peres said Egypt has grown considerably stronger in the wake of the ICO Summit in Kuwait, and Israel never objected to Egypt playing a role in the Arab world.

The vice prime minister will visit the great synagogue of Cairo and tour the national museum this afternoon. He will begin the working talks with his host, Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, later in the evening, which will serve as preparatory talks for his meeting tomorrow with President Husni Mubarak. [end recording]

Further Reportage

For Egyptian media coverage of the visit to Egypt by Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, please see the Egypt section of the 25 February 1987 Mideast *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

More on Likud-Alignment Debate Over Conference

Peres Discusses Disagreement

TA241712 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT
24 Feb 87

[Interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, by program moderators Dan Shilon and Ya'el Dan — live on the telephone]

[Text] [Shilon] Shim'on Peres, the vice prime minister and foreign minister, good evening to you.

[Peres] A very good evening to you, too.

[Shilon] Yitzhaq Shamir said last night: Peres has no authority to conclude anything about an international conference; it is merely a routine working trip. What can one expect from such a visit to Cairo by a manacled foreign minister?

[Peres] I am not handcuffed, nor am I completely familiar with what Mr Shamir said exactly. These are all indirect quotes, and I am experienced enough to realize one can not always rely on them. Still, it is necessary to distinguish between the peace process, which is a long and difficult process — and peace definitely will not be achieved through one, two, or even three trips — and the termination of the peace process, which of course is a one-time move that blocks all roads.

[Dan] Mr Peres, what do you still hope to achieve in Cairo? Do you, for instance, anticipate a joint statement of agreement between yourself and Mubarak on the international conference?

[Peres] I am not sure, because the international conference — actually we should call it international accompaniment — is not such a simple thing, either in terms of its participants or in terms of the procedure. Each time, we broach new ideas to see if we can smooth out things that still need to be ironed out.

[Shilon] One of which is the matter of the Palestinian representation in the conference. The Egyptians, or Mubarak, insist this should be the PLO, whereas you are suggesting they be authentic Palestinians. Do you have any new ideas to bridge this gap?

[Peres] Look, it is not just that he wants the PLO while I want authentic Palestinians, but all the parties involved agree the Palestinian representatives must be agreed upon. It is not as though this is something one side dictates to the other. Here, too, there are a host of nuances, although I continue to adhere to my opposition to the participation of Palestinians who are members of the PLO or its institutions.

[Dan] If things still take a turn allowing you to reach the signing of some sort of accord with Mubarak, would you do that despite the strong opposition to it on the part of the Likud and the prime minister?

[Peres] Let us draw a distinction between a communique and an accord. I am authorized to issue a communique, and need no approval. Furthermore, I would like to recall I will be acting on the basis of approvals and agreements that cannot be canceled. I raised my views on an international accompaniment before the Knesset four times. Mr Shamir saw my draft speech before I read it; I informed the Egyptian president of it; I mentioned it before the UN General Assembly forum, and it would be inconceivable that a rotation in Israel would result in a change in Israel's policy. If we reach an agreement, naturally we will have to bring it to the cabinet for approval. This is self evident.

[Shilon] The Likud meticulously points out that although you raised the issue before the Knesset and the cabinet, you still did not bring it up for discussion. Why is the Alignment so consistently avoiding discussing an international conference?

[Peres] First of all, this is not the case; on the contrary, we have consistently issued statements on it. The cabinet must make a decision when the issue is completely worked out. It is not common practice to make decisions on every turn. It is actually necessary to make a decision on the launching of the move, and another at the end, when there is something fully formed to decide upon. As I said, I announced the beginning of this move in the Knesset, in broad daylight, time and time again, and no one thought at the time this involved danger to Israel. I cannot see the danger to Israel inherent in this; I see a danger for peace if the peace process grinds to a halt.

[Shilon] Shamir currently accepts a miniconference with the participation of Jordan, Egypt...

[Peres, interrupting] But we do not need an agreement between Mr Shamir and myself; we need an agreement with Jordan.

[Shilon] Do you have no intention of suggesting this to Jordan?

[Peres] No, as we have already discussed this scores of times, it is nothing new.

[Shilon] And it has no chance?

[Peres] Of course not. We have suggested it many times, and it is nothing new.

[Shilon] Shamir threw down the gauntlet in New York on early elections, and you, too, said many times before that any procrastination in connection with the peace process would for you be cause enough for early elections. Perhaps the time is ripe to pick up the gauntlet now?

[Peres] To me, the goal of early elections is no goal; on the contrary, I undertook a commitment, and I would like to honor it. However, if an attempt is made to block the peace process, and if the economic recovery is stopped, there will indeed be no reason for the current cabinet to continue. But I would like neither to declare this, to threaten this, or to aspire to it. After all, the cabinet is not a goal in itself; it is a means to achieve national goals. On every issue it is necessary to weigh the good of the people in accordance with the mandate we were given. This government was founded on the basis of two principles: healing the economy, and pursuing the peace process. I, of course, will remain faithful to these two principles.

[Dan] Before we finish, regarding Lebanon and Syria's entry, we heard today Israel will not interfere in events in Lebanon, and my question is: Where is the red line Israel will not be able to ignore if crossed, if indeed such a line exists at all.

[Peres] Look, when you mention a red line, you are not actually asking a question but stating a fact.

[Dan] But I asked if such a line exists at all.

[Peres] Then let me answer thus: Israel announced today, and the defense minister repeated this position, that first of all we have no interest whatsoever in interfering in Lebanon's internal affairs. However, we definitely condemn the expanded Syrian presence and its deeper occupation of Lebanon. Secondly, we have thus far followed, and will continue to follow even more closely every development in Lebanon. Israel will know how to defend its security and preserve its needs. Admittedly this is an enigmatic statement; nevertheless, everyone can understand it.

[Shilon] Finally, Mr Peres, will you find the time to call the prime minister, who is New York, before your trip? Perhaps you have already done this?

[Peres] Look, we follow a policy of which we are both aware. It seems there was likewise no need to consult me before the prime minister's departure for New York. The fact that no such consultation took place is not because of telephones, and there is no need to make peace here. It is not as if we are not on speaking terms.

[Shilon] So, Mr Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, what should one wish you on the eve of your departure for Egypt: Good luck?

[Peres] Yes, definitely.

[Dan] Bon voyage.

[Shilon] Good luck.

[Peres] Thank you, and likewise to you.

Alignment Downplays Crisis

TA241644 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] The Alignment ministers conferred this afternoon and it seems the intention to downplay the verbal attacks on the Likud has been upheld, at least until Peres' return from Cairo. The report, which our sore-throated party affairs correspondent, Yaon Deqel, cannot read, will be read out by Nitzan Horowitz:

There is no point waving the banner of war, at least until after Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres returns from Egypt. This was stated by an Alignment minister today at the end of the Alignment ministers' weekly meeting, held in the foreign minister's office this afternoon. The Alignment ministers seem to have embraced the line of moderating the tone in anticipation of further developments. Shim'on Peres himself urged his fellow ministers not to mention elections now. He addressed the statements made by Prime Minister Shamir in the United States to the effect that Peres is authorized to send out feelers. The foreign minister said: I am no scout.

Two groups emerged in the session: one headed by Ministers Weizman and Shahal, who support extremism and polarization; and another led by Minister Ya'aqobi, who believes it is necessary to moderate the crisis.

Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said today he does not believe the foreign minister's trip to Egypt should result in the dissolution of the government.

[Begin Rabin recording] I cannot see in Peres' trip to Cairo anything that can harm the cabinet. The visit was approved by the members of the cabinet by telephone and if I am not mistaken, it was approved by all the cabinet members, regardless of party affiliation. [end recording]

So the members of the Alignment are awaiting the expected developments until Peres departs for Cairo and Shamir returns from his mission. The Likud ministers, too, are awaiting the return of the prime minister tomorrow, and will probably meet in 2 days to work out a consolidated position. However, the Likud faction again attacked the Alignment and Foreign Minister Peres today. The faction's communique read: In his irresponsible declarations, the foreign minister is harming Israel. However, in the final analysis, the crisis did not deepen today, and the two larger parties are waiting.

Likud Statement Hits Peres

TA241647 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] The Likud faction in the Knesset issued a harshly critical statement against Mr Peres. The Likud says that the vice prime minister did not report to the cabinet ministers at their session this week on his visit to Cairo because he lacks public courage. The statement also says that Shim'on Peres was the one who rekindled the European Community's support for the Venice Declaration, and caused damage to the State of Israel.

Our correspondent Amnon Nadav reports the Likud also calls on Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to examine the worth of Mr Peres' promises before he meets with him.

Peres Attacks Shamir

TA241642 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, attacked Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir at a meeting of Alignment ministers this evening. Our correspondent Razi Barqay reports Shim'on Peres said: What is the meaning of Shamir announcing in the United States he authorizes me to search for peace in Egypt? Mr Peres does not believe he will return from Egypt with an agreement on an international conference because this process will continue for months.

Mr Peres also said a deal between the Alignment and Likud in which Yitzhaq Moda'i would return to the Justice Ministry in exchange for the appointment of Gad Ya'aqobi as ambassador to the United States is totally out of the question. Our correspondent reports that among the Labor Party ministers, there are some who suggest a more moderate stand be adopted toward the Likud; among them, Yitzhaq Navon, Yitzhaq Rabin, and Gad Ya'aqobi.

Tehiya 'Key to Early Elections'

TA241650 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Knesset Member Yuval Ne'eman, head of the Tehiya movement, says if Shim'on Peres continues to promote the idea of an international conference, there will be no choice but to hold early elections. Our correspondent in the Knesset, Tzvi Yisre'eli, reports that according to most assessments in the Knesset, the key to early elections lies in the hands of the Tehiya faction.

Shamir: Unity Government 'Vital'

TA241830 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said a short while ago in New York it would be irresponsible behavior to regard the disbanding of the national unity government as a routine political development. The existence of the government is vital to the economy, and this is more important than all sorts of slogans. Mr Shamir made these remarks in a talk with correspondents in New York in reaction to Mr Peres' remarks during the Alignment ministerial forum.

In response to a question posed by our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer, Mr Shamir said: I have never promised anyone anything by swearing on oath; therefore, Peres is incorrect in saying I swore to the President that I would conclude the issue of the ambassador to the United States.

Mr Shamir added: On my return to Israel, we will examine the situation in light of the latest developments.

Says Summit 'Against' Interests

TA242010 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1900 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by correspondent in the United States Nisim Mish'al on 24 February; place not specified — videotaped]

[Text] [Mish'al] Mr Prime Minister, one of your statements in reaction to Peres' departure for Cairo tomorrow was: Shim'on Peres is trying to create a crisis. Is this what you really think?

[Shamir] Look, it is true that even before I left I knew he was talking about a trip sometime at the end of this month, and the foreign minister can go and meet with his Egyptian counterpart. However, it is as clear as day he has no authority to conclude anything or explain anything on this controversial issue; namely, the international conference.

[Mish'al] In fact, Mr Prime Minister, what is wrong with Mr Peres trying to do everything in his power to promote the peace process? Why are people angry with him?

[Shamir] The question is whether this is indeed promotion of the peace process. I believe peace is not synonymous with submission and capitulation; I believe going ahead with an international conference would lead to a disaster.

[Mish'al] Do you suspect Mr Peres wants to lead Israel to capitulation, to a disaster?

[Shamir] This is not a matter for personal assessment. I judge according to deeds. An international conference is a bad thing for Israel and is dangerous for it.

[Mish'al] Mr Shamir, could Mr Peres' visit to Egypt result in early elections in Israel, or to a crisis?

[Shamir] If Peres insists he can force upon the people of Israel something they have not been asked about, something that does not appear in the basic guidelines of the national unity government, then clearly this could, to our regret, and no matter how painful this is to us, lead to a crisis.

[Shamir] The feeling in Israel currently is that two governments are operating: one led by you, the other headed by Shim'on Peres. If so, Sir, let me ask you: Who is actually calling the shots in Israel today?

[Shamir] The impression is wrong: There is only one government in Israel.

[Mish'al] So you do not feel two governments are working simultaneously?

[Shamir] Perhaps there is an attempt to create an abnormal and damaging situation, but there is one government in Israel.

[Mish'al] Why will you not raise the issue of the international conference for the cabinet to decide upon? After all, it is such a contentious issue, why not reach a decision on it?

[Shamir] It is not a question of when to bring this issue up at the cabinet. We do not think there is currently any practical concrete proposal the cabinet is required, or can be asked, to decide upon. In fact, no such proposal exists at the moment, and I hope none will come. But when the question is asked about our participation in an international conference that is already a fact, the cabinet or the people will have to decide upon it.

[Mish'al] Mr Shamir, why are you actually afraid of an international conference? President Mubarak supports it, King Husayn is in favor of it, as are the Americans and Peres. Why will you not give the political process a chance?

[Shamir] Because I fully believe such a conference, in the Soviet-Arab form, is aimed against Israel's interests. Such a conference cannot excel in anything but its collapse, which will naturally exacerbate the fabric of relations between us and the Arab countries. If such a conference can end with some sort of agreement, the agreement will be detrimental to us, or perhaps even worse.

[Mish'al] Reports in today's Israeli press say, and I quote: What interests you, with all due respect, is the Herut convention, not an international conference.

[Shamir] These contentions are absurd and, furthermore, annoying and cynical. Who would suspect me of determining Israel's national interests according to any factional-partisan considerations, and in this case even interpartisan? This is absurd and ridiculous, and has never occurred to me. I do not give it even a minute's thought these days. Besides, I have no time for it, as you well know.

[Mish'al] Mr Prime Minister, I thank you very much.

Morning Press Comments on Shamir-Peres Dispute

TA250749 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0430 GMT 25 Feb 87

[From the review of morning press editorials]

[Text] *Ha'aretz* says the prime minister's call for direct negotiations without international accompaniment is meant to conceal his reticence about any territorial or operative concession to Jordan in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Shim'on Peres is right in feeling this course may bring the peace process to an impasse. However, his enthusiastic predilection for the notion of an international conference also has a weak point: Superpowers do not usually agree to serve only as the decor for international conferences. The assumption that their representatives will go to great lengths not to intervene in the process of direct negotiations between Israel and Jordan might prove to be an illusion. The paper adds fears that the world in general and our region in particular might infer from the rift within the government over an international conference — that there is no sense in reaching any agreement whatsoever with the present constellation of the Israeli Government —are well founded.

Davar writes the promotion of the peace process must not be based only on considerations of coalition politics. Although no one knows whether direct talks will yield any results, one should not come to terms with a stalemate that entails dangers to Israel. It is our duty to try time and again to initiate a dialogue, lest one day we have to blame ourselves that we did not do enough to prevent war. The visit to Cairo is in line with these efforts. A great deal depends on President Mubarak's willingness to join Mr Peres' initiative and take action to soften the Jordanian positions. In the absence of such willingness, the head-on confrontation between Shamir and Peres will remain mainly a verbal one and will force those yearning for a split to wait for the next excuse to disband the government.

'Al Hamishmar says Peres will not be able to recreate the Al-Sadat miracle in his meetings in Cairo, but he will be giving himself a rather rare opportunity to push new political processes. Real progress toward disbanding what the paper terms "the shameful partnership of the national unity government" depends on the pace of the evolution and the seriousness of the objectives of these processes. Herein, rather than in verbal tricks, lies the key to moving the elections forward.

The Jerusalem Post writes Yitzhaq Shamir and Shim'on Peres, who head the Likud and the Alignment, respectively, are still joined on paper in a national unity pact. However, what truly unites them now seems to be only the expectation of a fresh electoral fight sometime soon. There is no advance assurance that the Knesset that would emerge from such an ordeal would be materially different from the present. But perhaps, just perhaps, the voters would realize the experiment of a divided government pulling in opposite directions should not be repeated.

Hatzofe says during his visit to Egypt Mr Peres should not only deal with an international conference but also with steps to finalize the normalization between Egypt and Israel. One cannot discuss negotiations on peace treaties with other Arab countries at a time when the agreement with Egypt serves as a negative model.

Further Reaction to Syrian Deployment in Beirut

Levi: Deployment 'Not Yet Over'

TA241659 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] The chief of staff believes the deployment of Syrian forces in Lebanon is not yet over, and we should await developments. Lieutenant General Moshe Levi noted the size of the force Syria brought into Beirut was what the IDF had expected. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports the chief of staff made these remarks during a visit to Gaza.

Gen Levi said there has been an increase in the disturbances in the territories to protest the situation in the Lebanese refugee camps. Our correspondent adds during these disturbances 142 demonstrators from Gaza were detained and are being held in a detention camp for interrogation.

Rabin Assesses Syrian Role

TA241743 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Syria will not make moves that will get it embroiled in Lebanon beyond its intention of bringing order to Beirut. This was stated today by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who appeared before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. He believes there is no change in the Syrian surface-to-air missile deployment. From the Knesset, our correspondent Yinon Shenkar:

[Begin recording] [Shenkar] The main message in the statement made by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin during this morning's Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee session is that Israel is observing the stepped-up Syrian military presence in Lebanon and reserves full freedom to take action to preserve its interests in defending our northern border. The question that bothered the committee members today was the Syrian line, and Yitzhaq Rabin explained that, indeed, the transfer of part of the Syrian forces stationed in Lebanon in the direction of Beirut is a new Syrian policy stemming from the inability of Amal, the Syrian prop in Lebanon, to face the Druze-Sunni-Communist coalition in Beirut. The Syrian division, which numbers between 8,000 and 10,000 troops, is located north of Khaldah. There has been no change in the Syrian surface-to-air missile deployment, the defense minister explained, adding the Syrian forces are not deployed in the refugee camps or the Shi'ite neighborhoods. Minister Rabin believes the Syrians will not make any moves that will get them more deeply involved in Lebanon beyond their intention of bringing order to Beirut. So, how should Israel react now? Yitzhaq Rabin, after the committee meeting, said the following:

[Rabin] We object to any broader or deeper Syrian military involvement in Lebanon; namely in Beirut. We are following everything happening in Lebanon with the help of the intelligence means at our disposal. We reserve the right to exercise full freedom of operation should Israel's direct defense interests be harmed, if at all. At this stage, nothing has happened that would demand we make a decision beyond what I have just said.

[Shenkar] The Inner Cabinet, too, issued a statement today that explains Israel's official stand in a similar way. Meanwhile, the members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee expressed their own views and assessments of the situation. Knesset Members [MK's] David Magen and Ehud Olmert from the Likud along with MK Mikha Harish of the Alignment are worried by the possibility the increased Syrian presence in Beirut might lead to a deterioration projecting southward to Israel's northern border. On the other hand, MK's Yosi Sarid and Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer see the positive aspects of the Syrian entry into Beirut. Mk Ben-Eli'ezer maintains the Syrians will now attack Israel's staunchest enemies, the PLO and Hizballah, while MK Sarid says it is impossible to enter Lebanon without losing all sense of direction. We should not weep over Syria's follies. Alignment MK Sheva Weiss seconded the defense minister's opinion. [end recording]

Reportage on 45th OAU Foreign Ministers Meeting

Officials Arrive

EA221621 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 21 Feb 87

[Text] Foreign ministers of various countries have begun arriving in Addis Ababa to attend the 45th OAU foreign ministers regular meeting due to open this coming Monday [23 February]. They include: Zambian Foreign Minister Mr Mwananshiku; Angolan Foreign Minister Mr Afonso van Dunem Mbinda; Libyan Deputy Foreign Minister Mr (Hasite); Comoros Deputy Foreign Minister Mr (Mohamed Shaire); Chad's chief director of the Foreign Ministry; and Mr Omar Mansur, SADR Foreign Minister and Polisario Politburo member. Those who arrived yesterday were Dr Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, and Mr Mahamat Sani Bako, foreign minister of Niger. During this regular meeting, the ministers will discuss the OAU budget and administrative issues, and the committee on African economic problems will hold its own meeting and discuss measures to be taken.

Mengistu Message Read

EA241336 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1800 GMT 23 Feb 87

[Text] Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam has stressed it is time to refine and coordinate the struggle waged by the South African and Namibian liberation movements to bring about the consolidation of the armed struggle and to enable it to attain its goals. This is what Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, WPE Central Committee secretary general, PMAC chairman and commander in chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, stressed in a message to the 45th regular session of the OAU foreign ministers, which opened this afternoon.

In the message the comrade revolutionary leader said the inhuman acts committed by ther Pretoria regime affect not only the neighboring areas but the whole region and world peace. The fascist regime will have to realize the efforts by peace-loving and democratic forces, individually and collectively, to eliminate the apartheid system and neocolonialism from earth are now stronger than ever. In his message, read by Comrade Berhanu Bayeh, member of the WPE Central Committee Political Bureau and foreign minister, our comrade revolutionary leader stressed that to intensify the struggle and to enable the known liberation movements to attain their desired goals the foreign ministers should once again call on the world community to increase support for those movements and to impose general and mandatory sanctions on the racist regime to enable the Frontline States to counter the blatant aggression and coordinated plots against them

Ghali Resolves Chad-Libya Dispute

NC240926 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0832 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Addis Ababa, 24 Feb (MENA) — Libya has, as usual, attempted to disrupt proceedings within the OAU Ministerial Council meeting in Addis Ababa, provoking a sharp quarrel with Chad within the Council.

The incident arose during discussion of the Ministerial Council's agenda when Chad requested a clause on the Libyan aggression against Chad be included. The Libyan delegation quickly reacted to the request, frenziedly asking another clause, on French-U.S. aggression against Chad, be included. Some delegations suggested both clauses be omitted. The head of the Libyan delegation urged the OAU Ministerial Council not to discuss the Chadian issue at all, under the pretext it will be submitted to the OAU summit conference in July.

Egyptian diplomacy succeeded in ending the quarrel, resolving the issue, and placing the Chadian issue on the OAU Ministerial Council's agenda. Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs and head of the Egyptian delegation to the meeting, intervened, declaring it would be illogical for the African Ministerial Council not to discuss recent events in Chad and the shedding of African blood, both Chadian and Libyan.

He added failure to discuss this serious issue would cost the OAU its credibility and explained such a failure would not be in the interest of Africa and peace.

Dr Ghali urged the OAU Ministerial Council to discuss developments in Chad so the OAU secretary general would be able, in light of the opinions noted in the Ministerial Council, to make contacts and efforts and to submit a report on the issue to the forthcoming summit.

The Council agreed to Dr Ghali's request, and the Chadian issue was included on the agenda.

African circles consider this step the fruit of Egypt's efforts and a success for Egyptian diplomacy at the conference.

OAU's Oumaru Discusses Chad

EA242202 Dakar PANA in English 1515 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Addis Ababa, 24 Feb — OAU Secretary General Ide Oumarou said today in Addis Ababa recent developments in the Chadian conflict have slowed down the pace of a peaceful solution to the crisis. Presenting his progress report to the 45th session of the OAU Council of Ministers currently being held in the Ethiopian capital, Ide Oumarou said the conflict in Chad had reached a critical situation.

While lauding the spectacular reconciliation between the former leader of the Transitional Government of National Unity (GUNT), Goukouni Oueddei, and President Hissein Habre, he at the same time pointed to the problem created with the setting up of a New GUNT. He recalled to this effect that the Ndjamena Administration had made it clear in a letter addressed in September 1986 (eighty-six) to the OAU current chairman that the conflict in Chad has become a purely internal matter because of the growing number of people joining its ranks.

Ide Oumarou said these developments, compounded by the war between Chad and Libya is making it difficult to find a solution to an already complicated problem. Even African countries themselves have now begun taking entirely different positions on the conflict, Ide Oumarou added.

The OAU secretary general also referred in his report to Western Sahara, the situation in the Horn of Africa and other zones of conflict on the continent.

Referring especially to the Horn of Africa, he said the pace or normalization of relations between Ethiopia and Somalia has slowed down, giving way to skirmishes which were however quickly stopped.

On the tension between Togo on one hand, and Ghana and Burkina Faso on the other hand, created by Togo's accusation of the two neighbouring countries of involvement in a failed coup attempt in the Togolese capital Lome, Ide Oumarou said that the situation has returned to normalcy because of the efforts of the heads of state in the West African sub-region, the current OAU chairman, and the OAU General Secretariat.

Tripartite Ministerial Meeting Ends in Nairobi

EA232124 Kampala Domestic Service in English
1400 GMT 23 Feb 87

[Text] A tripartite ministerial meeting between Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania has ended in Nairobi.

The meeting discussed matters of mutual interest affecting the cooperation of the three former East African Community countries. The discussions centered particularly on the future cooperation among the three. Areas of future cooperation included transport and research in scientific fields. The meeting also finalized some few outstanding issues related to the winding up of the defunct East African Community.

The Uganda ministerial delegation, which was led by the minister of regional cooperation, Professor Mulema, included the ministers of justice, Mr Joseph Mulenga, and of transport and communication, Mr Kirunda Kivejinja. They were accompanied by a team of officials who included the permanent secretary to the Ministry of Regional Cooperation, Mr Nyakimwe.

West African Economic Community Meeting Opens

AB171025 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French
0730 GMT 17 Feb 87

[Text] The second extraordinary ministerial meeting of the West African Economic Community opened yesterday morning in Nouakchott under the chairmanship of the minister of economy and finance, Mohamed Salem Ould Lekhal.

Emergency Session Ends

LD181432 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic
2300 GMT 17 Feb 87

[Text] The proceedings of the 2d emergency session of the Ministerial Council of the West African Economic Community ended at the secretariat of the military committee for national salvation today, in the presence of representatives from Mauritania, Mali, Senegal, Ivory Coast, Niger, Benin, and the community's secretary general. The closing ceremony was marked by the speech delivered by Mohamed Salem Ould Lekhal, minister of economy and finance and chairman of this session, which he began by praising the atmosphere of frank understanding that prevailed during the session.

He said the council proved during 2 days of proceeding its ability to improve the organization's situation in an atmosphere ofsolidarity. The minister added it is our duty to work persistently to present solutions to all our problems in accordance with the directives of the heads of our states whose conviction of the need to [words indistinct] in the region a guarantee of our success.

At the end of his speech the minister of economy and finance commended the results achieved in a short time, which made it possible to submit constructive proposals for consolidating the organization's credibility.

At the end of this session, the following press release was issued:

The 2d emergency session of the Ministerial Council of the West African Economic Community was held in Nouakchott from February 16 to 17 1987, under the chairmanship of Mohamed Salem Ould Lekhal, minister of economy and finance of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, the current Council chairman.

Mohamed Salem Ould Lakhel opened the session with a speech in which he welcomed the participants and presented the broad lines on which the session's proceedings would focus. The secretary general of the West African Economic Community delivered a speech in which he said that in an integrated amalgamation we must be aware of the future of our region and the position and role of our states in the future world.

The ministers of economy and finance in the community's member-states (?focused) at this session mainly on the [words indistinct] regarding the restructuring of the organization in accordance with the proposal made by the current chairmanship in agreement with the member-states.

Council members were received on 16 February by Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation, head of state of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, and current community chairman. During the audience, the head of state gave the ministers directives and encouragements [words indistinct].

At the end of the session, held in an atmosphere of openness and understanding, the participants presented their sincere thanks to Col Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation, to members of the government, and to the Mauritanian people for the warm welcome and fraternal hospitality which the participants were accorded. The Council warmly congratulated Mohamed Salem Ould Lakhel, minister of economy and finance of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and current chairman of the West African Economic Community's Ministerial Council, for the great wisdom and flexibility with which he managed the session's proceedings. The Council congratulated the community's secretary general for the good preparation of this meeting which made it possible to reach satisfactory results.

West African Underwater Cable Planned

AB251117 Paris AFP in French 2134 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Conakry, 24 Feb (AFP) — Five West African countries (Ivory Coast, The Gambia, Guinea, Liberia and Senegal) have agreed to link their territories with an underwater cable. The protocol agreement was signed on 24 February at the end of a ministerial meeting in Conakry.

The protocol agreement indicates that the five countries (represented by their ministers of communications) agreed to soon undertake negotiations related to the preliminary studies necessary to draw up the possible intermediate connecting points of the cable. Under the terms of the agreement, the central secretariat of the project will be run by the National Senegalese Telecommunications Company (SONATEL) which was charged with coordinating all activities related to the project.

The system of underwater cable links, once implemented, will enable the improvement in quality and quantity of communications by telephone, telex, and wire among the five countries concerned. Representatives from Guinea-Bissau, Mali, and ECOWAS (comprising 16 member countries) took part in the meeting in Conakry as observers.

ALGERIA

Burkinabe Foreign Minister Arrives 20 February

LD211136 Algiers APS in English 1018 GMT 21 Feb 87

[Text] Algiers, 21 Feb (APS) — Burkinabe foreign minister, Leander Bassolet, arrived on Friday in Algiers on an official visit at the invitation of his Algerian counterpart, Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi.

Upon his arrival in Algiers, Mr Leander Bassolet expressed appreciation of the excellent relations existing between Algeria and Burkina Faso and recalled that the two countries have convergent views on international issues.

Since the revolution in Burkina Faso, Algeria provided us with all the understanding and support needed, Mr Leander said, adding that the outlook for bilateral relations is bright.

President Meets SWAPO Head, Burkinabe Official

LD212141 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 21 Feb 87

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid today received SWAPO President Sam Nujoma. Their talks centered on the situation in southern Africa and the Namibian people's struggle. The same topics were discussed during a meeting between Sam Nujoma and Cherif Messaadia.

President Chadli Bendjedid also received Leandre Bassolet, Burkina Faso minister of external affairs, who gave him a message from President Sankara. The minister also held talks with Algerian Foreign Minister Dr Taleb Ibrahimi. Their talks were broadened to include both delegations and dealt with prospects for developing bilateral relations and with some international issues of mutual interest.

Nujoma Denounces U.S.-UK Sanctions Veto

LD241243 Algiers APS in Arabic 0800 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Algiers, 24 Feb (APS) — SWAPO leader Sam Nujoma yesterday — Monday — announced in Algiers that SWAPO strongly denounces the recent Anglo-American veto of a resolution on a specific number of sanctions against the racist regime in South Africa.

At a news conference attended by the national and international press, Nujoma revealed the true aims of the London and Washington governments, who, for selfish economic interests, have been encouraging the Botha regime to be intransigent toward every operation aimed at finding a solution to the issues of Namibia and South Africa.

As a result of their attitude, he noted, these two governments have been aggravating the suppression of the peoples of Namibia and South Africa and delaying the process of Namibia's and South Africa's independence.

In answer to a question on the fictitious government that was set up by the Botha regime in Namibia, the SWAPO leader said it is a plan aimed at misleading the international public opinion.

He added that Pretoria is doing everything in its power to convince people that the racist authorities are showing good will and that they are ready to put an end to the occupation of our territory.

The fact, Nujoma pointed out, is that the South African regime has been resorting to political maneuvers because we intensified the armed struggle. In other words, he added, the Botha regime is trying to gain time by imposing a fictitious government in the hope of dealing a blow to the armed struggle.

Regarding the domestic situation, Nujoma revealed that the South African Army set up what he called operational areas where the death squads are active.

Nujoma said they are torturing, kidnapping, and assassinating young Namibians, and they are trying to play Namibians against one another by recruiting them by force into the ranks of the SouthAfrican units.

He stated the situation is tense and violence and oppression are on the increase but this will not undermine our people's will to make all sacrifices for the sake of seizing their independence.

Finally, the SWAPO leader saluted Algeria — people and leadership — for the effective solidarity which they never ceased to display toward the nations engaged in the struggle against persecution, enslavement, and injustice.

LIBYA

Ghali's Stand on Chad, OAU Agenda Criticized

LD250159 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1910 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Addis Ababa, 24 Feb (JANA) — Butrus Ghali, head of the Egyptian regime's delegation to the meeting of the OAU Council of Ministers, has opposed the entry of an item discussing the French-American aggression against the Chadian people in the Council's agenda.

At the same time, Butrus Ghali has demanded and strongly supported the entry of an item in the Council's agenda promoting the French-American allegations about the so-called Libyan presence in Chad.

With regard to this stand, JANA's African affairs editor said that Ghali's attitude is confirmation of our belief that the Egyptian regime has ceased to be useful to the Arab nation or to Africa since it committed itself to the Camp David agreements and became the spokesman of the imperialists, the enemies of the Arabs and Africa. Now we see Ghali impertinently speaking on behalf of the French and American colonialists and Zionists inside the OAU. In the same way, Zionism rode on Husni Mubarak's back to enter the ICO summit in Kuwait, the colonialists are now riding Ghali to enter the conference room of the OAU Council of Ministers to force the African Continent to listen to their dirty voices oozing with poison and enmity toward Africa and the Africans.

The editor added: Furthermore, we are astonished by the attitude of our people in Egypt who accepted being represented abroad by someone reared in an atmosphere of suspicion and whose family's personal dictionary is full of swear words and expressions of agentry, treason, and shamelessness. We are also astonished that they pass his conduct in silence, which harms the Arab right and is devoid of any loyalty except to his masters in the West who have secreted him as they had secreted his family before him.

The African affairs editor ended his commentary by stressing that Ghali's moral decline reflects the greater decline facing the regime headed by Mubarak and before him by the executed Al-Sadat...and that these shameful and humiliating attitudes are known to everybody because this regime does not try to hide its scandals. Therefore, there is no excuse to prevent the Egyptian people from settling accounts with this regime, and we are convinced that the Egyptian people is capable of doing so, and the heroic operation of the rostrum is not far off.

YAR Secretary Arrives for People's Congress

LD251033 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0015 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Excerpt] Brother Ahmad Muhammad al-Asbahi, secretary of the YAR General People's Congress, and an accompanying delegation arrived in Tripoli yesterday evening to attend the General People's Congress sessions and to participate with the Libyan Arab people in the celebrations of the 10th anniversary of the declaration of the people's authority and the birth of the first jamahiriyah in history. [Passage omitted]

Tripoli TV: Revolutionary Force Wrecks Building

LD232233 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 Feb 87

[Text][Video shows persons carrying furniture in street, followed by mass meeting in a hall; tractor demolishing a building] Last night, a revolutionary force at (Al-Bayan Al-Awwal), Banghazi, demolished one of the dens of the enemies of God clique, who sold their consciences to Satan and made this den into a center for spreading their malignant poisons and despicable aims. They used Islam as a front for implementing their horrible crimes against the sons of the Libyan Arab people.

In a statement issued on this occasion, the revolutionary force stressed its continuous readiness to crush the enemies of the Libyan Arab people and all those who obstruct the people's civilized progress, authority, and revolutionary options. In its statement the force declared that the people's authority is protected by death, and that the agents of the United States who try to hide themselves under the cover of Islam will be ended in shame and disgrace.

MOROCCO

Congo President Departs After Talks With Hassan

LD211300 Rabat MAP in English 1205 GMT 21 Feb 87

[Text] Fes, Feb 21 (MAP) — President of Congo Denis Sassou-Nguesso has left Fes early this morning at the end of a brief visit to Morocco during which he held two rounds of talks with King Hassan II.

In a departure statement, Nguesso said that "When two African leaders meet especially at a moment when Africa is facing a difficult economic and political situation, they can only review these problems and see to what extent they can contribute to their solution in the interest of African peoples".

Nguesso said he had discussed with King Hassan II the issue of austral Africa, the economic situation in the continent, Africa's indebtedness, the problem of Chad, the Western Sahara issue and efforts the United Nations secretary general and himself are exerting with a view to organizing a referendum in the Sahara.

The Middle East question, the Palestinian and Lebanese issues and the Iran-Iraq war were also discussed, he said.

The president of Congo arrived in Fes Friday afternoon coming from Spain, last leg of a European tour.

Foreign Minister Leaves for Italy 24 February

LD241423 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Abdellatif Filali, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, left Rabat this morning for Rome on an official visit to Italy at the invitation of his Italian counterpart, Giulio Andreotti. During his visit to Italy the minister, in addition to talks with Andreotti, will meet with Prime Minister Bettino Craxi and with members of parliament. During the same visit, he will be received by Italian President Francisco Cossiga. Mr Filali will also preside over the opening of the Mohamed V Hall at FAO Headquarters in Rome.

SUDAN

Al-Mahdi on Brotherhood Charter With Egypt

JN241808 Khartoum SUNA in English 1722 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Khartoum Feb 24 (SUNA) — The signing of Brotherhood Charter between Sudan and Egypt means the cancellation of all the agreements made and institutions formed during the era of ousted President Numayri, Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi announced.

Al-Mahdi, in a statement delivered before the Constituent Assembly (parliament) here today, said the Brotherhood Charter, signed in Cairo at the end of his five-day official visit, does not mention a matter which means their cancellation.

The extradition of former President Numayri who is currently in Egypt, is a popular demand, Al-Mahdi said, adding that Sudan Government will go forward to extradite Numayri by all means.

The prime minister thanked Egyptian President Husni Mubarak his Egyptian counterpart 'Ali Lutfi [as received] and Egyptian political leaders for their warm welcome.

Al-Mahdi told the parliamentarians that the Brotherhood Charter has replaced the agreements signed between the Egyptian and former President Numayri, adding that the Nile water agreement, the trade and industrial protocol are still effective.

Sudan and Egypt had signed during the rule of ousted President Numayri a number of agreements including the integration, and the mutual defence pact.

On the security issue, Al-Mahdi said Sudan and Egypt will exchange views on the joint security issues.

On the existence of Egyptian troops at the Sudan northern border, the prime minister reaffirmed that Sudan will not relinquish any part of the country.

Our mission and duty is to guard Sudan's territories, the prime minister concluded.

Further Remarks

JN241817 Khartoum SUNA in English 1733 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Khartoum Feb 24 (SUNA) — Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has stressed that the recently signed Sudanese-Egyptian Brotherhood Charter is based upon the special relations of common interest and centre around the reformation of cultural and educational cooperation and for the development of the basic infrastructure of transport and communications.

Al-Mahdi said in a statement before the Constituent Assembly (parliament) here Tuesday that the charter had touched upon the basic and essential political principles of commitment to democracy, basic freedoms, non-alignment in foreign relations in addition to the charter's affirmation of the two countries' Arab, African and Islamic affiliation.

The charter further calls for at least a minimum Arab reconciliation and the support of the Arab cause, the liberation movement in South Africa and the Frontline States.

Al-Mahdi said the charter calls for peace in the Middle East as adopted by Sudan in the wake of the 1985 uprising. He reiterated that the Sudanese political parties do not call for severing relations with Egypt. He said geopolitics has its necessities and the surrounding reality has changed the Egytpian Government call for an international peace conference on the Middle East problem in the presence of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) as the sole representative of the Palestinian people, Al-Mahdi said.

We have agreed with Egypt, he said, to work for Arab solidarity, Egypt has reestablished its membership in Arab organizations and the Arab states have realized the effects of disunion, he said.

Al-Mahdi said the illegal regime of ousted Numayri had misused the Sudanese/Egyptian relations for its own false propoganda and security requirements.

The popular revolution and the transitional government had confronted those 'barbaric' legalities and abolished the integration agreement and its organs, he said.

Al-Mahdi referred to the government policy statement which calls for establishing distinguished relations with certain neighbour states and said Sudanese/Egyptian relations would be reformulated in a way that serves the interest of the two countries.

Contacts between the two countries have been continuing on the popular and official levels and viewpoints have been exchanged over a new version (of relations) the outlines of which had been laid down by the charter Al-Mahdi said.

Islamic Front Leader Assesses Charter

EA232201 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1730 GMT 23 Feb 87

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Feb — The National Islamic Front describes the Brotherhood Charter between Sudan and Egypt as an order from above. [sentence as received] It suggests that relations with Egypt began today.

Dr Ali al-Haj Muhammad, secretary of the Front's Political Affairs Office, said today: In spite of our faith in and support of anything serving to bring the two peoples together, we find the Brotherhood Charter, as far as form is concerned, appears to be a charter of the two coalition parties; we heard nothing about it except that a committee had been formed by the two sides to draw it up. It was not placed before the peoples of Egypt and Sudan until after it was signed. We read nothing about it except what appeared in the Egyptian press and was quoted by the Sudanese papers.

Dr Ali al-Haj Muhammad went on to say: There is no doubt that concealing the charter or its broad outlines from public opinion before it was signed...[sentence as received] The idea of doing things from above in the consolidation of relations between the two fraternal countries contradicts the norms of democratic practice. Any matter of significance requiring dialogue and consultation, particularly relations with sister Egypt, should be put forward to achieve national consensus to ensure that such relations will be governed by stability and continuity. In this case, the Charter is a matter imposed from above.

Dr Ali said the charter made it contents appear as if relations with Egypt had begun today. It was silent about previous experiments in the transformation of bilateral relations, which had welcomed every step in bringing the two countries closer together and entrenching their relations.

Dr Ali al-Haj Muhammad said he welcomed the outcome of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's visit to Egypt inasmuch as it had put an end to the lukewarm and sometimes tense relations between the two governments. It had also led to the normalization of relations between the Ummah Party and Egypt.

Al-Mirghani Receives USSR Parliamentary Group

JN242045 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1710 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Feb (SUNA) — State Council Chairman Ahmad 'Ali al-Mirghani received the head and members of the USSR parliamentary delegation currently visiting the country. The head of the delegation said the discussions during the meeting dealt with bilateral relations and international issues.

The meeting was attended by State Council members Idris al-Banna and Dr Pacifico Lado Lolik; Constituent Assembly member 'Ali 'Uthman al-Khalifah; and the Soviet ambassador in Khartoum.

Libya Invites Al-Mahdi to Anniversary Fete

JN211347 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1428 GMT 21 Feb 87

[Text] Khartoum, 21 Feb (SUNA) — The Libyan Jamahiriyah has invited Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi to attend its celebrations on the establishment of the people's authority, which will begin on 2 March. Presidential Affairs Minister Salah 'Abd al-Salam announced this in a press statement here today. 'Abd al-Salam said Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi might respond to the invitation if the circumstances allow him to do so.

The Libyan Jamahiriyah extended a similar invitation to State Council Chairman Ahmad 'Ali al-Mirghani.

Al-Mirghani Sends Message to Al-Qadhdhafi

JN221654 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1458 GMT 22 Feb 87

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Feb (SUNA) — State Council Chairman Ahmad al-Mirghani has asked Sudanese Ambassador to the Libyan Jamahiriyah 'Abd al-Majid Bashir al-Ahmadi to convey a written message to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan 1 September revolution. This was stated today by 'Abd al-Majid Bashir al-Ahmadi following his meeting with the State Council chairman here. He did not disclose the contents of the message. The ambassador said that he and the State Council chairman reviewed relations between Sudan and the Jamahiriyah and ways to bolster and strengthen them, as well as issues related to the region in general.

Al-Mirghani Given Message From Tunisian President

JN241837 Khartoum SUNA in English 1707 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Khartoum Feb 24 (SUNA) — Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba has reaffirmed his country readiness to cooperate with Sudan in order to serve the two countries interest.

In a verbal message conveyed today by Tunisian Ambassador to Khartoum Mohamed Habib Abbas to Chairman of the State Council Ahmad al-Mirghani, Bourguiba hoped for Sudan prosperities and progress.

The Tunisian ambassador to Khartoum in a press statement following the meeting with Al-Mirghani, said Tunisia will take part in some developmental projects, adding that he will confer with some Sudanese officials to discuss the details of the projects.

Proposed Constitutional Amendments Passed

JN221936 Khartoum SUNA in English 1724 GMT 22 Feb 87

[Text] Khartoum, Feb. 22 (SUNA) — The Council of Ministers has today passed the proposed constitutional amendments, which were due to be carried out on the country's interim constitution, in their final form prior to submitting to the Constituent Assembly (Parliament) for final approval.

The cabinet, chaired by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister al-Sharif Zayn al-'Abidin al-Hindi, has also passed a number of international agreements.

The said constitutional amendments were strongly opposed by some southern and northern political parties, and particularly the Islamic National Front (INF).

Al-Mahdi Confers With Southern Council Members

JN231851 Khartoum SUNA in English 1730 GMT 23 Feb 87

[Text] Khartoum. Feb 23 (SUNA) — The powers delegated to the South Council and newly appointed governors are constitutionally based on the 1972 Addis Ababa agreement, Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi announced today.

Al-Mahdi, who conferred here today with the chairman and members of the Council of the South, reaffirmed that these arrangements are transitional till the resolutions of the proposed constitutional conference are issued.

The prime minister added that the attorney general is currently preparing a draft law on the powers of the Council of the South and the governors. The new law will be drafted in consultation with the Council of the South before its being submitted to the cabinet. Al-Mahdi urged the Council of the South to coordinate between the southern political parties and the Ministry of Peace to hold the constitutional conference.

Explaining the condition of the southerners in the different parts of the north, Al-Mahdi called on the Council of the South to supervise their situation in cooperation with the capital commissioner and the regional governors.

Troops Inflict 'Heavy Losses' on 'Outlaws'

EA230002 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Feb 87

[Text] We have just received this report. The brave People's Armed Forces achieved a new victory over the rebellious and mercenary forces early this morning. Our forces attacked a large camp belonging to the outlaws to the east of the town of (?Jubayl) and succeeded in destroying the camp completely, inflicting heavy losses in terms of dead and wounded on the outlaws. Among the dead were a number of officers from various ranks.

Our forces seized four antitank guns carried on [words indistinct] trucks; two antiaircraft guns; four SAM-7 antiaircraft missiles, in addition to a number of mortars; two pieces of signal equipment in good condition; two tractors; two water tanks in good condition; and large quantities of grenades and ammunition, antitank RPG's, and eight barrels of [word indistinct].

Our forces lost three martyrs killed and eight wounded.

This camp is one of the large camps belonging to the outlaws. They have been using it for attacks on innocent citizens who refused to join them. They used to loot their property and assault their women. Our brave forces are continuing to comb the area in pursuit of the remanants of the routed outlaws.

SPLA Radio Reports Battles, Government Losses

Troops Reportedly Mutiny

LD201559 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Text] Radio SPLA has learnt from reliable sources in Juba that mutiny has broken out among Khartoum Government troops in the Yei and Yambio garrisons in eastern and western Equatoria, respectively. According to the sketchy details of the incident so far available, the fighting, which is said to be still gong on, is between troops from the south and west of Sudan, on the one hand, and others from the northern part of the country. A spokesman for SPLM-SPLA Political-Military High Command has said that the movement supports the mutineers and will lend them all possible assistance.

73 Militiamen Killed

EA232015 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 23 Feb 87

[Excerpt] A series of clashes have occurred in northern Bahr Al Ghazal between SPLA forces and Al-Sadiq's militia forces as SPLA continues to pursue and round up remnants of the militia which was dispersed in an earlier engagement.

According to the Radio SPLA correspondent in the area, the combined forces of Fire, Twik Twik and Nile Battalions made contact with the fleeing enemy on 11 February 1987 at Pakwar village in (Awan Shar) area; this was followed up with yet another attack the following morning, 12 February 1987, which was carried out by a combined unit from Eagle Battalion and Abyei task force at (Wurol).

The two clashes left many Khartoum militiamen dead and injured, but our correspondent says that the militia suffered its greatest losses at Fanial where over 53 militiamen died, bringing the death toll in the three battles to 73. [passage omitted]

15 Killed in Gogrial

EA232115 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 23 Feb 87

[Excerpt] SPLA units of Bee Battalion and Gobriel task force, under direct and combat command of 1st Lieutenant (Deng Tong) and 1st lieutenant (Matur Chuk Dhol), carried out an intensive shelling of the enemy garrison at Gogrial on 9 February 1987.

A correspondent for Radio SPLA in the area says that 15 of the enemy soldiers were killed in the shelling and many others were injured. [passage omitted]

Pibor Casualty Claims Denied

EA241437 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] The official spokesman of the SPLM-SPLA has dismissed as false recent claims by the Khartoum regime that its forces in Pibor had inflicted heavy casualties on SPLA troops there. According to the spokesman, SPLA forces under the command of Captain Kennedy Gayen clashed with the enemy forces around Pibor Town on February 21st 1987 in a battle in which the SPLA destroyed completely an enemy tank, an APC in addition to a Magirus army truck.

The spokesman went on to say that 52 enemy soldiers had sustained serious injuries in the battle and were now out of combat action awaiting evacuation. The spokesman also said, quoting highly reliable sources inside Pibor town, that the deputy commander of Khartoum's forces in Pibor, 1st lieutenant Sadiq Ahmad Sadiq, was among those killed during the fighting.

Meanwhile, the overall commander of the enemy garrison in Pibor, Captain Ibrahim Ali Bakhit, was himself seriously injured.

134 Militiamen Killed in Battle

EA241447 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Excerpt] Radio SPLA has just learned that a further 134 of Al-Sadiq's militiamen were killed in a 2-hour battle [date not specified] with SPLA forces of Rajaf Battalion under the command of Captain George Kwach at (Malek-Alel) south of Uwayl town. [passage omitted]

'Widespread' Damage in Bentiu

EA241439 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Reports from western Upper Nile says Bentiu town garrison came under heavy shelling by the SPLA mortar units detached from SPLA forces under overall command of Major Riak Macar Teng, alternate member of SPLM-SPLA Political-Military High Commander and zonal commander of western Upper Nile, on the 14 February, 1987. Correspondent says that the enemy suffered widespread damage in materiel. Two enemy soldiers were killed and one was seriously injured.

Meltu Garrison Shelled

EA241534 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Excerpt] In northern Upper Nile, SPLA units of Mazlum Battalion under overall command of Lieutenant Colonel Daniel Deng intensively shelled Meltu enemy garrison for 2 hours from 1100 to 1200 [as heard] on 16 February 1987. The enemy suffered heavy casualties in men and materiel. A number of military installations in the enemy's garrison were destroyed. [passage omitted]

WESTERN SAHARA

President: 6th Wall 'New Step' in 'Escalation'

LD250209 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] In a message to the UN secretary general, SDR President Mohamed Abdelaziz stressed that the sixth wall the Rabat regime has started to build constitutes a new step on the path toward military escalation.

The contents of the message were reported in a statement by the Saharan Ministry of Information. In the message, the Saharan president pointed out that in response to the considerable efforts exerted by the UN and the OAU toward establishing peace in the Western Sahara on the basis of implementing UN and OAU Resolutions Nos 41/16 and 104, the Moroccan Government's reply has been to construct a new defensive wall in the Western Sahara. This makes the Moroccan Government further entangled in the policy of escapism.

The message concluded: Facing this critical situation, the international community, and primarily the UN, find no alternative but to react to this unjustifiable action of the Moroccan Government with condemnation.

Foreign Affairs Official Departs for OAU Meeting

EA222344 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1700 GMT 22 Feb 87

[Text] Challe Muhammad 'Ali Hamud, the SDR minister of state for foreign affairs, and his delegation left for Addis Ababa this afternoon to attend a regular ministerial session of OAU member-states.

Challe Muhammad 'Ali Hamud told reporters in the airport VIP lounge that the OAU foreign ministers meeting opening in Addis Ababa tomorrow would, among other things, discuss economic, political, and social matters in the interests of the African people.

Challe Dr Muhammad 'Ali Hamud added that during the session the ministers would discuss the economic crisis facing Africa and how Africa could best surmount such problems. The SDR minister of state for foreign affairs added that the meeting would also discuss the political question of finding a solution to the Namibian problem and to other problems prevailing in southern Africa.

Dr Muhammad 'Ali Hamud and his delegation were seen off at Mogadishu International Airport by Dr Khalif Musa Samantur, SDR deputy minister for foreign affairs, and other senior officials in the SDR Foreign Ministry.

Information Ministry: 30 Moroccans Killed 23 Feb

LD240931 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0630 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Thirty Moroccan soldiers were killed and a number injured during an attack launched yesterday by the Saharan Popular Army against a Moroccan position at Jbilet in Guelta Zemmour sector, a statement by the Saharan Ministry of Information reports. It adds that during the attack a Morroccan base was seized, an ammunition store was burned, and military equipment was captured.

CAR

Bokassa Accepts Responsibility for 1979 Riots

AB221729 Paris AFP in French 0951 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Text] Bangui, 19 Feb (AFP) — Ex-Emperor Bokassa I, cross examined Thursday [19 February] by the president of the Bangui Criminal Court on the responsibility for the victims of the January 1979 riots, which led to his downfall, replied that he accepted responsibility for the riots in his capacity as head of state, but he was not in a position to say who opened fire on the people.

During the 37th session of the trial, Jean-Bedel Bokassa, sticking to his defense strategy of not making any personal statements but limiting himself to commenting on statements from witnesses, said: Nobody here could say that Bokassa had given the order to open fire.

The former emperor stated he had the medical personnel who treated the victims of the riots decorated, and that he had not been able to decorate them himself because he had locked himself up in his office weeping.

The president of the court, however, asked him why he had not opened investigations, but rather issued statement upon statement trying to deny allegations made against him, and did not take any sanctions after the suffocation of several young people locked up in prisons in April 1979.

Bokassa then repeated that he had been waiting for the return of calm and that he had never wanted to abdicate, as it was suggested to him, because he could not leave power before order was restored. His major concern at the time, he said, was to find money to pay the salaries of civil servants.

Francis Szpiner, one of the two French attorneys of the accused, who had been absent from Bangui for 2 months, returned to the CAR capital to relieve his colleague, Francois Gibault, who returned to Paris Thursday night.

CHAD

Additional Reports on Fighting in North

Libyan MiG-25 Claimed Downed

AU241633 Paris AFP in English 1627 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Excerpt] Paris, Feb 24 (AFP) — Chadian troops shot down a Libyan MiG-25 warplane Tuesday near the northwestern oasis of Zouar in Chad's Tibesti Mountain range, the Chadian Embassy here announced Tuesday, citing reports from the capital Ndjamena.

Earlier, officials in the capital said Chadian troops killed 29 Libyan soldiers in clashes Monday around the northwestern oasis of Zouar.

They added that Libyan planes had on Monday bombed the key northeastern town of Fada, which government troops retook from a Libyan garrison on January 2. [passage omitted]

FANT Reports 28 Libyans Killed

AB241917 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Communique No 37 issued by the Chadian National Armed Forces High Command on 24 February in Ndjamena]

[Text] Communique No 37 issued by the Chadian National Armed Forces [FANT] High Command: The hunt for Al-Qadhdhafi's troops in the Tibesti region is being pursued relentlessly, especially around Zouar. [Words indistinct] on 23 February 1987. The (?occupants) were pursued and given their (?due share) of humiliation and death. The outcome of the (?clash) is as follows: A total of 28 Libyans were killed and many of them wounded and carried away.

Meanwhile, the cowardice of the enemy is boundless for they resumed their blind bombing of the innocent civilian population at Fada on 23 February at 1900 local time.

JANA: Bardai on Chad Losses

LD242345 Tripoli JANA in English 0838 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Spelling of place names as received]

[Text] Baradai, al Nowar 24, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — Bardai Radio broadcast a communique from the National Liberation Army (NLA) of the legitimate Chadian Government of National Unity (CGNU) which said:

"A battle was fought by the liberation army and forces of the Ndjamena clique near 'Fada' where the enemy suffered heavy losses in lives and equipment.

"Another clash took place to the west of Dzawars at the end of which the forces of the NLA fully liberated the area west of Zawar.

"The NLA forces attacked a patrol of the Ndjamena clique at 'Ouqiyeh' area killing and injuring its members, destroying vehicles, capturing a number of others and destroying another enemy convoy.

"The enemy suffers at the present confusion and low moral amongst its ranks due to the heavy fires and the attacks by the forces of CGNU."

CAR Foreign Minister Calls for Libyan Withdrawal

AB232148 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 23 Feb 87

[Text] The Libyan troops occupying part of Chad must pull out as a matter of urgency so that Chadians will be allowed to design a development policy. This statement was made by the CAR foreign minister who arrived in Ndjamena yesterday. Mr Jean-

Louis Psimhis carried a message from General Andre Kolingba, CAR head of state, to his Chadian counterpart, El-Hadj Hissein Habre. After the audience, Mr Psimhis told our reporter Ndeadulah what his talks with President Habre centered on.

[Begin recording][Psimhis] We first examined matters of cooperation between the Republic of Chad and the CAR. I seized the opportunity to reiterate to His Excellency President Hissein Habre the support from his brother and friend, Gen Andre Kolingba, and to once again state the CAR's position on the Chadian problem.

[Ndeadulah] What is the CAR's position?

[Psimhis] Well, I can briefly tell you that our position has remained consistent. The national reconciliation process in Chad is being completed, and I believe we were on the right path when we held that such reconciliation must be achieved around President Hissein Habre in Ndjamena.

Furthermore, we are concerned over the situation because of our political and geographical relations. In view of the recent developments, we are anxious to see peace return to Chad. So we feel that the Libyan troops, who have been occupying part of the country, must pull out and allow the Chadians — all the children of this country (?dear to us) — to come together and define the development policy that they will join hands to implement for the well-being of all the Chadian people. [end recording]

UNIR Delegation Departs for PRC 22 February

AB221035 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
0530 GMT 22 Feb 87

[Text] A high-ranking delegation of the Central Committee of the National Union for Independence and Revolution [UNIR] is on its way to China to deliver a message from President El-hadj Hissein Habre, UNIR founding chairman, to the CPC secretary general who is also PRC prime minister. This delegation, which is led by Comrade Adoum Moussa Seif, member of the UNIR Central Committee Executive Bureau, deputy commissioner for external relations, and minister of mines and energy, also includes two Central Committee members — Comrade Mahamat Seid Fara, third deputy commissioner for national education, culture, and youth and sports, and Comrade Donor Ngar Jacques, president of the University of Chad.

The delegation, which left Ndjamena at 0100 [0000 GMT] for China, was received in audience prior to its departure by the head of state yesterday at 2000 [1900 GMT] for the necessary instructions relating to the accomplishment of its mission.

ZAIRE

Legislative Council Adopts Budget Draft Bill

AB241730 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French
1130 GMT 24 FEB 87

[Excerpts] The draft bill on the budget for the year 1987 was adopted by the Legislative Council yesterday.

The various state departments will [words indistinct]. In the meantime, here are some details:

The budget amounts to 82,364,038,946 zaires in receipts and approximately 88,354,368,946 zaires in expenditures. That is a budget deficit of around 6 billion zaires. [passage omitted]

The report of the Council's Economic and Financial Commission shows that the state budget has been cut by 6 billion zaires in receipts and expenditures following a decision by the MPR founding chairman. The president's decision came as a result of the negotiations held between our country and the IMF on the rescheduling of the Republic of Zaire's external debts. According to the report, 19 percent of the budget will be used to pay wages as against 20 percent in the previous budget. A total of 36 percent of the budget will be used to pay the debts — 6 percent for internal debts and 30 percent for external debts as against 25 percent in the previous budget. [passage omitted]

BENIN

Chadian Envoy Conveys Habre Message to Kerekou

AB242050 Cotonou Domestic Service in French
1930 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] An envoy from President Hissein Habre was received by President Mathieu Kerekou this morning. The envoy, Ahmed Korom, secretary of state for foreign affairs, carried a message from his president to the head of state. He was accompanied to the president's office by Comrade Guy Landry Hazoume, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation.

GHANA

Governments Warned About 'Unpatriotic Citizens'

AB242150 Accra Domestic Service in English
2000 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Excerpts] Two Ghanaians who were arrested last year for possessing subversive materials and other documents, meant to embarrass the government and evoke ill will against the revolution, were today presented to newsmen in Accra. They are Stephen Oti-Badu, 34, and James Akomea, 35. They were arrested at the Aflao border at different times, while attempting to leave the country.

According to the undersecretary for the interior, Nii Okai Djan Adamafio, Stephen Oti-Badu was arrested last August by security agents for carrying on him subversive documents in which he made many malicious allegations against the government. The letter, which was read to newsmen, claimed that Oti-Badu was a wanted man, because he helped the Ejisu District secretary who had committed a crime against the state to run away. The letter said Oti-Badu, who was a driver of the district secretary, was accordingly picked up, put into cells, and tortured until he managed to escape and sneaked into Nigeria through unofficial routes. He was therefore being sought by the security agencies and was seeking political asylum. This letter was to enable Oti-Badu to get employment in Canada where he was traveling to.

James Akomea was arrested last November on similar charges, when he was about to leave for Holland through Togo. A faked C.I.D. [Criminal Investigation Department] document found on him declared him wanted for subversive activities.

Briefing newsmen, Nii Adamafio observed that it is the conviction of the government that activities of unpatriotic citizens, which tend to tarnish the image of the country and the reputation of the government, must be made known to the public. He asked foreign governments to be wary of these stories and endeavor to investigate them. The Government of Ghana, he said, is ready to assist in these matters. Nii Adamafio said it is time Ghanaians realized that life is not rosy elsewhere and they should rather stay at home to help make conditions better for all. [passage omitted]

Nii Adamafio intimated: A decree will be released in line with the PNDC'S reconciliation policy.

LIBERIA

Trade Ties With FRG Reportedly in Jeopardy

AB242212 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English
2000 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Reports say that commercial relations between the Federal Republic of Germany and Liberia will be disturbed if a longstanding dispute between the Liberian Marketing Association, LMA, and a German investor is not settled.

According to today's edition of the *Daily Star* newspaper, this was announced by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany. In a letter to the minister of internal affairs, Edward Sackor, the German ambassador to Liberia, (Christian Matthans), explained reservations over the behavior of the LMA's president, Mr Ignatius Weah. Mr (Matthans) said that Mr Weah has failed to honor the mandate of President Doe to pay a German investor, Mr Peter Zenker, an amount of $78,000 in keeping with the loan agreement signed between the LMA and the investor.

Frictions reportedly started between the LMA and the German supplier in June 1986 following a complaint by the investor to his embassy against the LMA. In a letter to his embassy, Mr Zenker, who supplied the LMA with various commodities, said that the LMA had bluntly refused to honor the terms of the agreement signed with him on March 2d, 1984, for the payment of the amount.

MALI

Radio Announces Partial Cabinet Reshuffle

AB201646 Bamako Domestic Service in French
1500 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Excerpt] The head of state and president of the Republic reshuffled the cabinet this morning. Three persons have been appointed to cabinet positions, while three are leaving the cabinet. The new list of cabinet ministers was contained in Decree 42:

The Government of the Republic of Mali, beginning Friday, 20 February 1987, is composed as follows:

President of the Government [as heard]
  General Moussa Traore;
Prime Minister
  Prof Mamadou Dembele;
Minister of National Defense
  General Sekou Ly;
Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
  Modibo Keita;
Minister of Information and Telecommunications
  Mrs Gakou Fatou Niang;
Minister of Agriculture
  Lieutenant Colonel Issa Ongoiba;
Minister of Territorial Administration and Grassroots Development [Interior]
  Colonel Abdourahmane Maiga;

Minister of Justice and Keeper of the Seals
  Django Cissoko;
Minister of Industrial Development and Tourism
  Drissa Keita;
Minister of Natural Resources and Livestock
  El-Hadj Omar Tall;
Minister of Planning
  Ousmane Mohamed Diallo;
Minister of National Education
  Oumar Ba;
Minister of Public Health and Social Affairs
  Mrs Sidibe Aissata Cisse;
Minister of Sports, Arts, and Culture
  Bakary Traore;
Minister of Employment and Civil Service
  Hama Ag Mahmoud;
Minister of Finance and Commerce
  Soumana Sacko;
Minister of Transport and Public Works
  Cheikh Oumar Doumbia;
Minister of State Corporations and Enterprises
  Antioumane Ndiaye.

The order in which they were announced indicates the order of precedence.

Here are some comments on this cabinet reshuffle: We note three departures: Mr Ahmed Mohamed Ag Hamani is being replaced as minister of transport and public works by Mr Cheikh Oumar Doumbia, former director of the Larseg Authority for the Construction of the Sevare-Gao Road. Mr Dianka Kaba Diakite is being replaced as minister of state corporations and enterprises by Mr Soumana Sacko, who was permanent under secretary at the Ministry of State Corporations and Enterprises. The third person leaving the government is Mr Mahamadou Wague, who is being replaced by Mr Antioumane Ndiaye, who was economic counsellor at the presidency. Three departures; three new arrivals. [passage omitted]

NIGERIA

UK High Commission Said To Deny Visa to Minister

AB241150 Dakar PANA in English 1049 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Lagos, 24 Feb (NAN/PANA) — The British High Commission in Lagos has turned down visa requests by prominent Nigerians, among them a minister, the *Guardian* newspaper reported yesterday, quoting sources.

The paper named the affected persons as Alhaji Rilwanu Lukman, the petroleum minister; Mr Aret Adams, managing director of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation; (Une Chief Okpi); Saratu, the daughter of Ambassador Adamu Atih.

The refusal to grant the visas is the latest in the visa controversy between the External Affairs Ministry and the British mission in Lagos since it was ordered to close its Immigration/Visa Department. Nigerian authorities had complained that queues of applicants seeking visas often blocked the road to Dodan Barracks (State House) and that the mission never got its permission to site the department there.

The visa requirement, which the British Government says aims at decongesting immigration counters at its airports, became effective for Nigerians on 1 Feb. It also affects four other Commonwealth countries — India, Parkistan, Ghana, and Bangladesh.

MOZAMBIQUE

Witnesses Detail MNR Attack on Tea Factories

MB241420 Dakar PANA in French 0935 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Gurue (Mozambique), 24 Feb (AIM/PANA) — MNR bandits in the pay of South Africa killed 500 people [number as received] and sabotaged 5 tea processing factories on 12 February in Gurue District, Zambezia Province (Central Mozambique). These factories belong to Emocha [Mozambique tea enterprise] and the damage is estimated at several million dollars.

Initially the death toll was estimated at 30, but many more bodies were found after searches were conducted with the aid of local people in the ruins of the houses burned by the bandits.

The attack began approximately 1100 when a group of bandits infiltrated the town of Muepagina, northwest of the city of Gurue. They then marched to Zone III of the Emocha tea plantations. This zone is the enterprise's main production sector and has five tea processing factories.

The bandits began to kill or kidnap the residents and loot their houses. A tractor was intercepted while carrying three (?sick people) from the village of (Intuba) to the hospital [words indistinct]. These people were killed and the bandits then split into smaller groups to attack each one of the factories. Eyewitnesses told AIM that the bandits met no resistance in their attack.

An initial assessment of the damage showed that two of the five factories were damaged beyond repair; these factories had just been rehabilitated at a cost of about $30 million. Several dozen tons of tea were destroyed as well as vehicles and agricultural machinery belonging to Emocha. We recall that that enterprise has been unable to export tea since 1983 because of attacks by the armed bandits.

The armed bandits were (?led) by three white men; they directed the sabotage of the factories by showing to the bandits how to inflict maximum damage. An eyewitness told AIM that the three white men were disguised.

The bandits entered Muepagina disguised as government troops. They misled the popular vigilance brigade by saying that they were stationed in Navela, according to a villager. They claimed they were carrying some sick and injured people to Gurue to pick up food supplies. We believed them because we know that some [words indistinct].

Navela is located in the neighboring district of Alto Molocue which the Mozambican Army retook from the MNR on 27 January. During that attack three people (two Italians and a Mozambican) and a Portuguese nun were freed from the bandits' yoke.

An Indian technician working for Emocha, Mr Solomon, was kidnapped by the bandits and held captive for 3 days. He said he was captured while trying to hide and added that they took him to Factory No 10 where their leader was. He further said he saw them robbing several things and raping young girls. Mr Solomon estimated that there were more than 500 heavily armed bandits, equipped with radio transmitters. He said also that they placed sentries on the mountain and the leaders spoke to each other via radios. Mr Solomon and other victims escaped from the bandits' yoke as soon as they withdrew.

The Mozambican Armed Forces regained control of this area on 16 February and mobilized the local population to extinguish the fires caused by the bandits 2 days before. This was not an easy task; the factories were still burning last Friday.

There is reason to believe that the gang that attacked Zone III is the same one that raided Socone [the second biggest Emocha production unit] in Ile District on 4 February. The bandits were in Socone for 3 days where they partially destroyed two factories and burned several tons of tea waiting for export. The damages caused by the Socone raid were estimated at $48 million.

Bandits Said Moving Toward Maputo Province

MB241828 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1730 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] An armed bandit group, carrying war materiel, is moving toward Maputo Province. This has been disclosed to AIM by an eyewitness. The eyewitness, who is less than 20 years old and lived in bandit captivity for 10 months, told AIM the gangsters are carrying AK-49 [as heard] rifles and other equipment which she thinks are bazookas. AIM learned from military sources that the bandits are from northern Gaza and Inhambane Provinces and central Mozambique.

NAMIBIA

Pienaar Speaks to National Assembly on RSA Plans

Offers Talks on Elections

MB241428 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1411 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Windhoek Feb 24 SAPA — The SWA/Namibian administrator-general, Mr Louis Pienaar, said today he was ready to arrange negotiations between the Transitional Government and Pretoria for regional elections to broaden the base of the territory's government. Speaking at the opening of the National Assembly in Windhoek, Mr Pienaar said the South African Government had strong feelings about drawing in leaders presently outside the SWA/Namibian constitutional process.

"It is still the position of the Republic of South Africa that the people of SWA/Namibia should themselves decide on their constitutional future, but by that is meant their widest possible participation in a consultative process." Mr Pienaar said that was clearly the policy of South Africa concerning the SWA-/Namibian constitutional process, and not merely a wish expressed by the state president, Mr P.W. Botha, at the inauguration of the Transitional Government.

Referring to a meeting between Mr Botha and the transitional cabinet in October last year, Mr Pienaar said the need to broaden the base of government and some form of protection of minority rights was spelt out by the state president to the delegates.

For various reasons there was a measure of resistance among certain SWA/Namibian leaders, such as Mr Peter Kaluangula of Ovambo and Mr Justuis Garoeb of the Damara, to join the Transitional Government. "The responsibility of achieving the participation of others would rest principally on those wielding power," Mr Pienaar admonished the political parties of the National Assembly. "One might have expected certain overt strategies to achieve that objective."

National elections or plebiscites in SWA/Namibia which would jeopardise the external relations of South Africa could not be conceded. "But the Republic of South Africa would welcome elections to choose leaders in those regions where such elections could lead to the extension of constitutional consultation," Mr Pienaar said.

Name Issue Requires Majority

MB241615 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1604 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Windhoek Feb 24 SAPA — South Africa had no real preference in choosing a name for SWA/Namibia and would have no objection to the territory's being officially named "Namibia" provided the majority of the people were in favour of it, the administrator-general, Mr Louis Pienaar, said in Windhoek today. And the SWA/Namibian Constitutional Council in its present form was not qualified to take a decision on the issue.

Mr Pienaar was speaking at the opening of the SWA/Namibian National Assembly on the Transitional Government's programme of action announced earlier this year.

"Our only desire would be that any name which is chosen should not be imposed on the country as a whole by a minority decision which could provoke reaction and division on an issue which should rather enjoy the largest measure of national support possible." The subject of a name for the territory had been correctly identified as a constitutional issue. "The attitude of the Republic of South Africa that the Constitutional Council itself is not sufficiently representative of the people of this territory is well known, and it would not be wise to be content with consultation within that body only as presently constituted."

Mr Pienaar said two proposed new ministries to deal with security affairs and foreign cooperation and development could be the forerunners of future government departments in an independent SWA/Namibia. "The proposal should be considered in conjunction with the recent decision to establish a national intelligence agency for SWA/Namibia from April 1."

Mr Pienaar cautioned: "Both the proposed separation of the command structures of the South African Security Force and the SWA Territory Force as well as the intention to reflect a substantial degree of formal autonomy in the conduct of foreign relations require careful negotiation at cabinet level with the RSA in order that the international status of the territory shall not be jeopardised. For this purpose we fortunately already have a bilateral cabinet committee of foreign affairs and defence."

Mr Pienaar said he anticipated successful cooperation between the South African Cabinet and the transitional cabinet to achieve a result in which SWAPO would "finally come to accept the futility of its so-called armed struggle." It was clear that SWAPO "is losing its war of violence and, as a result, its international image as a serious contender for power must necessarily be on the wane." "Perhaps the proposed ministries will find ways and means of conveying this message to SWAPO."

Mr Pienaar said it was intolerable and irreconcilable with democratic concepts that SWAPO "abuses its freedom to participate in democratic processes to try to canvass support, not so much by political argument but through the argument of violence, by holding forth that it possesses the physical power to bring about political change." "It reminds one of the fascist Black Shirts of Italy and the Brown Shirts of Nazi Germany," he said.

RSA To Remain Involved

MB241619 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1608 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Windhoek Feb 24 SAPA — South Africa's interests concerning the SWA/Namibian situation would have to be respected until firm agreement was reached on Cuban pull-out from Angola, which was conditional to the territory's independence, the administrator-general, Mr Louis Pienaar, said in Windhoek today.

Addressing the opening of the SWA/Namibian National Assembly, Mr Pienaar outlined his position in the territory's legislative and executive dispensation, and he made it clear to the political parties present that his was not the duty to act at all times on the advice of the Transitional Government. His office, paid for and maintained by South Africa, was an integral part of the government structure as he had to sign into law bills of the National Assembly as stipulated by the South African state president's Proclamation R101.

"However, it will be wrong to conclude from that that it is purely a ceremonial office in terms of which he (the administrator-general) has to act at all times on the advice of the National Assembly and the cabinet," Mr Pienaar said. "The administrator-general is an office-bearer of the Republic of South Africa and he represents the state president. His is the task to convey the views of South Africa, particularly where the interests of the Republic are at stake, to both the Transitional Government and the people of SWA/Namibia. South Africa has accepted certain responsibilities and financial commitments for the people of SWA/Namibia."

Mr Pienaar said South Africa had stated repeatedly that it would be guided by the aspirations of the broad majority of the people of SWA/Namibia. "But South Africa does not necessarily identify the wishes of the people of the territory with the wishes of the majority in the present Transitional Government."

DTA Views Pienaar Statement

MB241948 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1804 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Windhoek Feb 24 SAPA — A major component of the SWA/NAMIBIAN Transitional Government, the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance, said tonight it viewed "in a very serious light" a remark made in a speech by the administration-general, Mr Louis Pienaar, at teh opening of the National Assembly today.

Mr Pienaar said at the opening in Windhoek this afternoon that South Africa felt strongly about the process of consultation with political leaders outside the Transitional Government. He said the state president, Mr P.W. Botha, had told SWA/Namibian government cabinet members in October last year provision had to be made to safeguard minority rights in the territory.

The DTA executive said in a statement issued after Mr Pienaar's speech: "In the view of previous experiences the speech of the administrator-general is viewed in a very serious light and the executive will react to it fully in due course."

The last remark in the DTA statement was seen as reference to the dissolution of the previous interim government of SWA/Namibia at the instructions of Mr Botha in 1982. The disappearance of the government at the time had to do with differences over the scrapping of traditional South African public holidays observed in SWA/Namibia.

Assembly Resumes Debate on School Desegregation

MB241653 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1629 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Windhoek Feb 24 SAPA — SWA/Namibia is set for the revival of intense political debate on the desegregation of schools reserved for the exclusive use of particular population groups in the territory.

At the resumption of SWA/Namibian National Assembly proceedings in Windhoek today, the chairman of a standing committee on human rights, Mr Hans Erik Staby, tabled a report that the education ordinance of the administration for whites and education legislation of the Rehoboth Baster Gebiet [area] were in conflict with the territory's bill of fundamental rights, which outlaws racial discrimination.

The committee's report adopted by a majority vote — the all-white SWA National Party and the Rehoboth Liberated Democratic Party apparently dissenting — recommended that the two laws by the second-tier ethnic authorities concerned be repealed through the introduction of a national education amendment bill.

Alternatively, the committee recommended that the Windhoek Supreme Court be approached for a final ruling on whether the administration for whites and the Rehoboth government through their schools system violated the rights bill.

Politically sources said the next likely step was that the minister of national education, Mr Andrew Matjila, would submit a national education amendment bill for approval to the cabinet. The proposed law would stipulate that it would be mandatory for all schools in SWA/Namibia to open their door to all races subject to certain entrance requirement. The same measure would apply to teachers' training colleges.

As a bill of the central government, the proposed law would contain a proviso that it supersedes and invalidates all other education ordinances and laws.

Heated debate is expected on the development, which follows failed government attempts last year to desegregate schools particularly reserved exclusively for white children.

Only minutes before the report was tabled today, the administrator-general, Mr Louis Pienaar, told the National Assembly that the state president of South Africa expected that minority rights be safeguarded in SWA/Namibia.

The schools controversy gained momentum with reports that the SWANP-controlled whites administration this year had reclassified as whites five children of racially-mixed descent to enable them to attend white schools. They were classified as members of the white population group after the administration's executive committee had examined photographs of the children to establish whether their colour was "white enough", reports said.

SWAPO Official Claims RSA Using Chemical Weapons

MB241829 Harare Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] The secretary for health and social welfare of the South-West Africa People's Organization, SWAPO, of Namibia, Comrade (Iyambo Indongo) has charged that South African soldiers are using chemical weapons against SWAPO freedom fighters. Comrade (Indongo) told the BBC in Harare today that the use of those weapons have resulted in strange diseases which have been difficult to diagnose. A SWAPO official also said the South African doctors (?are organizing) with the Botha administration to commit genocide against the people of occupied Namibia. South Africa occupies Namibia in defiance of the UN resolution.

SOUTH AFRICA

ANC Radio Examines U.S., UK Vetoes on Sanctions

EA241214 Addis Ababa Radio Freedom in English to South Africa 1930 GMT Feb 87

[Station commentary: "Imperialism Protects Apartheid"]

[Excerpts] Compatriots, the (?voting on) the popular resolution of the Security Council last Friday, which was calling for comprehensive sanctions against the criminal Pretoria regime, by the imperialist governments of Britain and the USA was yet another indication of the capitalist world's support for the racist regime. Ironically, the motion that was put forward by a number of countries contained the very same measures adopted last year by the American Congress, but the USA was one of the two countries that opposed the same motion in the Security Council. The American representative claimed that he opposed the motion because it will be difficult to lift those sanctions when the situation changes in South Africa. In other words, this representative of imperialist capital still clings to the baseless belief that Botha is a reformer, and that given a chance, he will bring about changes in the system; but we know that Botha is not a reformer, and that apartheid itself can not be reformed. There can be no changes in that system which will ever be acceptable to our people short of the total destruction of the apartheid system itself.

The representative of Britain still holds on to the old and discredited claim that sanctions are counterproductive, and that they will make the Pretoria dictators more intransigent, as if they are not intransigent at present.

These representatives of exploitative capital know very well that we are not simply struggling in order to pressurize Botha to introduce changes (?for us). We are not looking forward to Botha changing heart and dismantling the system of (?apartheid). We know that that system will only be destroyed by our people in struggle. [Words indistinct] the international community to impose these sanctions so as to weaken the regime and thereby minimize the loss in human life and property in the process of the destruction of the apartheid system. The [words indistinct] of the destruction of the system is to us a nonnegotiable (?factor). There is no other way except doing away with that killer system. Now what we want is that the world public should isolate the enemy and thereby lessen his capacity to hold on to power.

The fact of the matter is that Britain and the USA are opposed to the imposition of sanctions against Botha because they benefiting from the maintenance of that system. Their monopoly companies are reaping enormous profit from the brutal exploitation of our people. We shall remember that at the Commonwealth Summit in Bahamas in 1985, Britain remained alone, isolated as the rest of the member-states were calling for punitive measures against the racist regime.

Our secretary general, Comrade Alfred Nzo, dismissed claims by Margaret Thatcher that sanctions will hurt black people the most as a [word indistinct] lie whose object is only to protect the apartheid system. [passage omitted] But despite the unlimited support that these imperialist regimes render to the racists, the momentum for sanctions is growing within the populations of these countries. Comrade Thabo Mbeki, member of the National Executive Committee of our movement, explains that our call for sanctions is mainly aimed at weakening the capacity of the oppressor to hold on to power, and that it can not be a substitute for our struggle [passage omitted].

Commentary Underlines Futility of Sanctions

MB250924 Johannesburg International Service
in English 0630 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Station commentary: "Sanctions"]

[Text] Plans by the black states north of South Africa to impose sweeping sanctions have been quietly dropped. That is the word this week from the respected diplomatic correspondent of the London *Sunday Telegraph*, Norman Kirkham, and the newspaper's correspondent in Harare, Patrick Bishop. Their reports have not been officially confirmed, but it comes in the wake of significant moves by parliamentarians and government officials in both Zimbabwe and Zambia who, in recent weeks, have warned their governments not to impose sanctions against South Africa.

The validity for warnings to southern African states about the dire consequences for themselves of sanctions has been spelled out in statistics provided to an international gathering in Johannesburg by a local lecturer in transport economics. Here are the statistics he provided. About 70 percent of Zambia's imports come through South Africa, and 40 percent of her exports are transported through South Africa. Eighty percent of Zimbabwe's imports and up to 90 percent of her exports are transported on the South African transport network. Fifty-seven percent of Zaire's imports are conveyed on the railway line through South Africa and Botswana. The Tan-Zam [Tanzania-Zambia] line from Zambia to Dar es Salaam and the port of Dar es Salaam can handle only about 45 percent of Zambia's freight traffic, let alone meeting requirements of other southern African countries.

Earlier the general manager of South African Transport Services, which is intimately involved with the railways and harbors authority in Mozambique, gave another warning. It was that, even if the railway line from Zimbabwe to Beira and the port of Beira were renovated — at great cost — they would still not be able to handle the volume of traffic offered by hinterland states.

Sanctions talk has also been dealt body blows by two other recent developments. The food riots on the Zambian Copperbelt 2 months ago underscored the need for Zambia to keep her food lifeline to South Africa open. And Zimbabwe has been compelled in the last 2 or 3 months to place two orders with South Africa for emergency petrol and diesel supplies totalling 42,000 tons to keep her economy going. Clearly the realities of southern Africa are more important than the rhetoric of its rulers.

Report Calls for SADF Presence on Campus

MB250805 Johannesburg SOWETAN in English 24 Feb 87
pp 1 and 2

[By Mathatha Tsedu]

[Text] A confidential report on the University of the North (Turfloop) has recommended that the security forces be given unlimited access to the university, that student political activity be curbed and the commemoration of days like June 16 banned.

Strict controls to be implemented must ensure that "radical underground elements" and the "revolutionary climate" on the campus were eradicated.

The report, entitled "Confidential: Steps and Measures for Campus Control — Interim Report" was posted to the *Sowetan*.

The report was not signed and it is not known when the second one will be issued.

Last week a spokesman for the university said the university would release details on admissions today.

Yesterday the rector, Professor P.C. Mokgokeng, and public relations officers were said to be in Giyani and could not comment on our further inquiries.

Though it cannot be established if any of the recommendations have been implemented, and if the report was commissioned by the university, some steps already taken by the university authorities are similar to some of the proposals.

The nine page report with numerous subheadings recommends unlimited access for security forces on the campus to "monitor radical and disruptive elements" and the establishment of communication channels "to enable management and experts from outside to inform staff about revolutionary activities, target groups being the ECS (Executive Committee of Senate), the senate and faculty boards, departmental staff and administrative management committee.

Some of the measures include admission and registration of the students:

Rule A19 which deals with readmission of older students to be applied strictly. Students who are refused readmission to be given two years before being readmitted.

No transfer students other than those from Unisa [University of South Africa] to be accepted this year; and

The university to take steps "through the existing state security institution to ensure that no radical underground elements are admitted".

On university and securty:

Formal communication will take place between the rector and the SADF Far North Command Headquarters, South African Police and Lebowa Police;

The report further states that the "university reserves the right to disallow SRC [student representative council] activities."

Resolutions of the SRC will only be considered if taken through properly supervised secret balloting and bookkeeping of finances of the SRC to be entrusted to a university officer.

On political activities the report states that commemorations of "so-called national days on campus" will not be permitted and that disciplinary steps will be taken against staff or student members "who launch politically motivated action or activities on campus."

The report states that the university, being non-affiliated to any political organisation should not allow "itself or its facilities to be used for political campaigns or mobilisation".

On campus control it is stated that a "high fencing should be erected between campus and campus staff residential areas."

Class attendance registers are also to be introduced and both staff members and students "should carry on themselves visible university identity cards during any academic activities."

Strict control of copying and typing machines is also recommended to curb reproduction of political material.

An additon to student rules states that:

Violent and disruptive protests and demonstrations will not be allowed;
Prior approval for any mass marches and meetings must be obtained from the rectorate;
Petitions must be properly signed by a majority of students, giving adequate particulars of the petitioners; and
Slogans that may be offensive to any group on campus will not be allowed.

Some of the above measures have already been implemented this year and over 500 students are said to have been refused readmission this year on the basis of rule A19.

Commentary Regrets Racism in School Sports

MB250517 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] It is regrettable that schools have become involved in racial incidents relating to athletics events. Apart from the personal offence that is inevitably implied by such incidents, the resultant public controversy has raised equally deplorable and entirely unjustified suspicions about the sincerity of reformist intentions in the country.

In so far as this has brought the whole sphere of organized athletics into dispute, it is essential to note the distinction between that sphere and sport that is organized entirely by and between schools.

In general, competitive athletics at all levels in the country — and certainly at recognized championship level — takes place under the aegis of the South African Amateur Athletics Union. That body has for years been in the forefront of normalizing sport in South Africa, and as a matter of firm policy prohibits any form of racial, color, religious or sex discrimination at meetings held under its jurisdiction. The extent to which this policy is actually practiced may be judged by the fact that by now 31 black and brown athletes have been awarded Springbok colours.

This week the president of the union, Prof Charles Nieuwoudt, not only reaffirmed the policy but deplored the racial incident at Menlo Park for the widespread harm it had caused. He pointed out, however, that the Menlo Park athletics meeting was a school affair and that the Amateur Athletics Union, therefore, had not control over it.

Professor Nieuwoudt was referring to the fact that sport that is practiced by schoolchildren in the context of their school activities is regarded as distinct from their other sports activities, and falls under the control of the individual schools. However arbitrary that seems, it is in accordance with an overall sociopolitical approach that aims at devolving to communities at the lowest possible levels the say over matters that affect them.

What that boils down to is that it is ultimately up to the management board of a school — elected by the parents — to determine the criteria by which school activities, including the practice of sport, may be conducted. The elected management board is, of course, assumed to be representative of the local community.

When the principle of community control is not observed in practice there is bound to be trouble over controversial decisions. When a management board is elected by an unrepresentative minority, causing embarrassment to the majority by its decisions, the time is overdue for parents to take more seriously their duty to be actively involved in their children's education.

Local communities in South Africa are too apathetic about participating in the very matters that most intimately concern them, as the notoriously low polls achieved at municipal elections have shown over the years. To the extent that more and more important issues are decided at the local level, such apathy could become increasingly costly.

If local communities cannot afford such a state of affairs, it is no less certain that the country as a whole cannot afford gratuitously insulting behavior across color lines. With a modicum of foresight and consideration it is usually possible for an institution to remain out of a situation that it finds unacceptable, rather than to become involved and later withdraw to the embarrassment of all concerned.

When all is said and done South Africans still have to share this country, regardless of their race or community, and it is in the interests of all that they should do so as amicably as possible.

UDF Official Among Recently Released Detainees

MB250505 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1107 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Pietermaritzburg, Feb 24, SAPA — A number of Durban detainees being held under Section 29 of the Internal Security Act have been released in the last 24 hours.

Among them is Mr Lechesa Tsenoli, Natal publicity officer for the United Democratic Front.

He was detained on December 12 last year and released today. He was held in emergency detention earlier last year and was the subject of an August Supreme Court application which challenged the validity of all emergency detentions.

He was released when the court ruled the detention powers embodied in the emergency regulations were invalid — but this ruling was later overturned by the appeal court in Bloemfontein.

Other Section 29 releases in the last two days include a University of Durban-Westville student, Miss Desiree Daniels, Dr Baski Desai and Mr Logie Naidoo.

Information Bureau Issues 24 Feb Unrest Report

MB250847 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0842 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Pretoria, Feb 25, SAPA — The following is the Bureau for Information's unrest report for the period 0001 to 2400 yesterday (Feb 24).

"Isolated stone throwing incidents, causing minimal damage, were the only unrest-related incidents reported during the abovementioned period. In one such incident, in Bhulinglela a (Emphangeni), two youths were arrested. No injuries were reported as a result of any of these incidents."

Press Comments on Current Issues, Problems

MB250704 [Editorial Report]

THE CITIZEN: PFP in Need of Direction

The page 6 editorial in Johannesburg *The Citizen* in English on 24 February says of the PFP: "Instead of looking like an alternative government, at a time when Afrikanerdom has lost its cohesion, when Afrikanerdom has lost its way, it looks more and more like a party in need of hope and direction." "At this point, the PFP is falling into a trap simiiar to that into which it fell when it broke up the UP [United Party] and took the incompatibles from that party. It is trying to set up an alliance with anyone who wants quicker or better reform, irrespective of their policies and whether or not they support the Progs [PFP member]." *The Citizen* believes that the PFP "has prostituted itself by placing political expediency above principle."

THE STAR: Calls for Clearer Party Policies

Johannesburg *The Star* in English on 24 February says in a page 10 editorial that "the parliamentary session which ended yesterday contributed little that was constructive. Progress towards resolving the problem of black political rights — the country's key issue — is in suspense. The Government has applied tough emergency restrictions without taking adequate steps to remove the causes of the emergency. What we have had in Parliament in the past few weeks has been some essential budgetary legislation...and the beginnings of what already looks like a very dirty election campaign." *The Star* urges voters to "demand right at the beginning of the campaign that all parties consider their words and their policies carefully."

Suspension of Violence Called For

"British Conservative MP Mr John Carlisle has long been among the South African Government's most loyal defenders, so his change of view should command serious attention in Pretoria," notes a second editorial on the same page. Carlisle says it is up to President Botha to "take the plunge and amend his conditions for talking to the ANC from abandonment of violence to 'suspension.'" "An undertaking to suspend violence should be sufficient. As Mr Carlisle says, it would put Pretoria in better light and it would put the onus on the ANC to respond, showing it is genuine in its desire to negotiate a sharing of power. Like others, the MP detects a strong desire to break the political impasse amid all sectors of society here. The Government should take cognisance of that groundswell instead of retreating to the fearful attitudes of the hard right."

Barber on U.S. Human Rights Report

Simon Barber comments from Washington on page 8 of Johannesburg *Business Day* in English on 24 February on the State Department annual human rights report that it submits to Congress, saying that in some respects it is "an extraordinary smug ritual." "Nonetheless, and for all inherent contradictions between high-minded theory and often cynical practice, the human rights report is a worthwhile excercise, whose meaning goes well beyond its dry, methodical indictments of injustice. Few, if any, documents put out by the U.S. Government so clearly state America's fundamental ideology, or so persuasively demonstrate why it is preferable to the alternatives." "Sadly, the U.S. regularly talks a better game than it plays. Witness the Reagan Doctrine, which talks of fighting communism for democracy's sake but whose chief aim seems to be to replace their gangsters with ours. But forget that for a moment and think about the human rights report for what it says, not what its authors do."

SOWETAN on 'Cracks' in NP

"For better or for worse the monolith that is the National Party is showing cracks from within caused by loyal supporters who are challenging the party's fundamental policies," says the page 6 editorial in Johannesburg *Sowetan* in English on 24 February. President Botha is "floundering in the mess of the apartheid system and while he himself claims the Government is reforming, what he actually means is they are trying to pretty up the corpse of apartheid." "We are rather comforted by the fact that those who are dissenting from government policy are not simply making empty threats. They seem to be prepared to do something about structural change. This is the time to come to the rescue of all South Africans."

BEELD on Survival of Afrikaans Language

A page 14 editorial in Johannesburg *Beeld* in Afrikaans for 24 February says that "perhaps the language question is one of the keys to a peaceful political and social dispensation. If Afrikaans is no longer considered the language of the oppressor, but rather the mother language and cultural language for millions across color lines, it can unite instead of separate. If the rights and the human dignity of others can also be protected in Afrikaans, then Afrikaans can become the language of triumph instead of humiliation — and such a language deserves to survive. It should be the challenge of the Federation of Afrikaner Cultural Associations to ensure that Afrikaans gets such a status."

ZAMBIA

Kaunda Releases 4 Detained South Africans

MB251010 Umtata Capital Radio in English
1000 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda has freed four young South Africans he said were arrested last year while working for South African intelligence. Kaunda told a news conference he was setting free Randolph Keyser, Rudolf Otterman, Bernhardt Koch, and Duncan Vause on humanitarian grounds after appeals from their parents.

Police Operation Aims To Deport Illegal Aliens

MB241438 Dakar PANA in English 1237 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Lusaka, 24 Feb (ZANA/PANA) — Zambia's defence and security forces are to mount a major clean up operation aimed at ridding the country of illegal aliens who are undermining the country's security. Police public relations officer, Lawrence Munalisa said last night that all illegal aliens' [word indistinct] activities will be rounded up and deported soon. To avoid inconvenience and unnecessary embarrassment everybody should carry identification documents, he said in a statement. For children under the age of sixteen years who do not have registration cards, recognised official passes from their schools will be required.

This exercise follows the seizure of large contraband of various items which were to be smuggled out of the country. A number of businessmen have been rounded up and detained in [word indistinct] and in the Copperbelt in connection with the theft of spare parts from Zambian Consolidated Copper Mines (ZCCM) while some people have been deported for illegal occupation and dubious activities. Last week President Kenneth Kaunda took a swipe at Emerald small miners whom he said were abetting the plundering of the nations wealth by acting as fronts for illegal aliens.

Post Office Bomb Set Near Electricity Mains

MB241513 Dakar PANA in English 1500 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Lusaka, 24 Feb (ZANA/PANA) — A bomb blast rocked the Chelston post office on Sunday night shattering windows and ripping off part of its roof but nobody was reported hurt. The bomb blast went off around 20:00 hours and electricity in the nearby buildings went off for some time.

The post office has been temporarily closed although normal operations continued in the chemist and local court whose windows were also shattered by the blast.

The scene of the blast shows that the bomb was apparently placed near a box with electricity mains by the wall of the post office which has also been damaged at the bottom.

The bombing of the Chelston post office comes in the wake of increased destabilization activities against Frontline countries by the South African regime against whom they are campaigning for mandatory sanctions. South Africa last year made a three pronged attack on Zambia, Zimbabwe and Botswana in which it bombed the United Nations Makeni refugee transit camp in Lusaka.

Addresssing the Sussex County ladies golf team at State House, Kuanda said the youth of the world have a special mission on this troubled earth on which mankind is divided by artificial barriers.

He said mankind's hope lies in the youth who should learn to cut across artificial barriers of race, colour, religion and ethnic groupings, and treat every man as an equal and a creature of God.

Chissano Addresses Copperbelt Workers 20 Feb

MB241848 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1100 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] The Mozambican leader, President Joaquim Chissano, did not limit his official visit to Zambia last week only to discussions with the Zambian leadership. On Friday, President Chissano visited the Zambian Copperbelt where he addressed workers at Chingola. He was accompanied by the secretary general of the United Independence Party, UNIP, Grey Zulu. When President Chissano arrived at Chingola, he made an impromptu address to the local people and workers. The Mozambican leader spoke about one of the major difficulties directly affecting the workers' price rises. The Mozambican leader's theme was why the situation is existing:

[Begin Chissano recording] Fortunately the two people, the Mozambican people and the Zambian people, know very well who is responsible for our difficulties. That is not UNIP; that is not Frelimo; that is not the leadership of UNIP; that is not the leadership of Frelimo. These are not the ministers of the two countries. We know who are the responsible for the poverty, the difficulties, the increase on the prices of goods, the lack of the essential goods for our lives. We know who is responsible for that. Who is responsible? You know. You know that the responsible is, first of all, the apartheid regime, the apartheid regime who does not want to see the development of Zambia, who do not want to see the development of Mozambique, who do not want to see development of Zimbabwe, of Malawi, of Swaziland, of Lesotho, of Tanzania. They do not want to see development of the independent countries in southern Africa. Day and night in Copperbelt you are digging copper and you want to export copper but instead of sending it through Mozambique which is nearby, you are obliged today to send it through South Africa, a very long way, and then you have to pay to the South Africans for the transportation of copper. It is a very long way. You have to pay to them because they are obliging you to do that by sabotaging the railways which could send your copper to the ports of Mozambique which are nearby. They are destroying the railways which link Zambia and Malawi, to the port of Nacala. They are sabotaging, destroying the railways which link Zambia and Zimbabwe to the port of Beira. They are sabotaging the railway which link Zambia and Zimbabwe to the ports of Mozambique. So, in Mozambique you have three ports for you but in order to create poverty to the Zambians, Zimbabweans, and Mozambicans, the South Africans through their surrogates, the armed bandits, they are destroying all these infrastructures so that we remain poor, so that our job of digging copper in Copperbelt, in Chingola, becomes useless. We remain poor with our wealth in hand. [end recording]

ZIMBABWE

Ian Smith: West Should 'Reconsider' Sanctions

MB242002 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1947 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Cape Town Feb 24 SAPA — Former Rhodesian Prime Minister Mr Ian Smith, now the leading spokesman for whites in opposition in the Zimbabwe House of Assembly, tonight urged the West to reconsider its sanctions campaign against South Africa. In an interview with SAPA, Mr Smith said he was speaking as a "Zimbabwean patriot" and rejected suggestions in Zimbabwe that he had been "traitorous" in a recent speech to a stockbrokers conference in Johannesburg.

"What they did not like, apparently, was my statement that sanctions could actually do a lot of good for South Africa in boosting morale and encouraging the development of some industries, for example, as happened in Rhodesia. However, that was only a minor part of my speech. My main thrust was that sanctions were stupid, that they would not work, and that while they would do little harm to South Africa, they could well have a devastating effect on my country and on other black-ruled countries in the sub-continent."

Mr Smith said he had also been accused of supporting the philosophy of apartheid in South Africa. "That is just ridiculous, but typical of the way things I say tend to get twisted in Zimbabwe today by a certain minister.

"South Africa's internal policies are none of my business, and I have not mentioned them. I have always believed, as the United Nations should according to its Charter, that a country's internal affairs are their own business and no one else's."

His speech, as when recently speaking in Australia and New Zealand, had mainly been directed at trying to convince the Western world of the stupidity of their sanctions policy against South Africa "because of the damage it is going to do to my country." The vast majority of commerce and industry in Zimbabwe knew the devastating effect sanctions would have on Zimbabwe, "and, according to my information, more and more black people believe (?it) too."

"I believe a growing number of people in government, and in the cabinet, are now saying we must not have sanctions against South Africa because of the damage it would do to us. The West must realise that it is Zimbabwe and other black states that would be devastated. I could understand it if it was the communists who were imposing the sanctions. I am truly amazed that the Free World is doing Russia's job for them. The Russians are just sitting back and letting the Western countries do the running for them."

Mr Smith, visiting family in Cape Town, will fly to Johannesburg this weekend for the annual reunion of the South African Air Force Association. "There will be lots of old friends of mine there, people I flew with in the (Second World) war, and I am really looking forward to it.

"And that is another point the West should consider. South Africa has always fought on the side of freedom, and I am sure they would again if a similar situation arose. The West should think of that."

Smith Statements Criticized

MB241041 Harare THE HERALD in English 14 Feb 87 p 4

[Editorial: "Smith's Loyalties"]

[Text] The news this week that Mr Ian Smith has been advising South Africa on how to subvert economic sanctions against the apartheid regime must be startling even to those Zimbabweans who may have adopted the attitude that, with his surrender to popular majority rule, the former rebel Rhodesian leader had become an irrelevant, toothless bulldog.

According to press reports Mr Smith addressed businessmen in Johannesburg on Tuesday and said South Africans could overcome sanctions if they stuck together.

Everyone knows that South Africa is virtually at war militarily and economically, not only with Zimbabwe but with all the Frontline States. It has sabotaged their economies and will seek more horrendous ways of destruction to try to prove to the world that sanctions affect its neighbours more than they affect the South Africans themselves.

Mr Smith, as a leader of a political party which is represented in the Parliament of this country and as a former prime minister, should surely know all these things and the full significance of every move he makes when dealing with Zimbabwe's enemies like South Africa.

While he may be regarded by some in this country as a politically spent force, it is obvious that outsiders, especially those hell-bent on perpetuating racist policies which Smith once stood for in Rhodesia, still revere him for his rebellion against the British crown.

That is why he can demonstrate such unabashed rebelliousness by making himself adviser to people who seek by their words and actions the total collapse of his country's economy and independence.

And it is not the first time that he has not represented his country abroad as a good ambassador. He has previously made bitter and derogatory remarks about Zimbabwe during visits overseas. The question that must now be asked is whether Mr Smith's utterances outside this country are a reflection of the policies of the Conservative Alliance of Zimbabwe [CAZ].

It may not be untrue to suggest that the CAZ leader behaves the way he does because he believes the patience and tolerance of the Government are inexhaustible.

The danger in not taking stern measures against this man, particularly when he flirts with the racists in Pretoria, is that the public could be given the wrong impression that Smith is feared here.

Barter Trade Deal Negotiated With GDR

MB241937 Harare Domestic Service in English 1745 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] A barter deal involving the exportation of Zimbabwean tobacco to the GDR in exchange for GDR goods has been concluded between the governments of the two countries. A statement issued by the Ministry of Trade and Commerce in Harare today said interested registered Zimbabwean importers are invited to apply for allocations under this deal. It says preference will be given to the importation of fertilizer, plastic, glass, raw materials, and machinery for industrial, agricultural, and mining use.